APRIL
1947

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THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN

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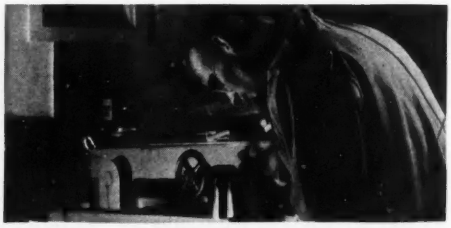
NATIONAL SMALL
BORE CHAMP

How tight can a group be at 100 yards?

WHEN your rifle, your aim and your squeeze are right, and conditions ideal, how tight can a group be? As tight as your ammunition can shoot!

No ammunition can put all bullets in one hole at 100 yards for a series of shots. But Peters technical men, by unceasing care in manufacture and testing, have found ways to make match cartridges as nearly *exactly alike* as modern "know-how" will permit. The result of this care can be seen in the photograph above, showing test groups shot from target rifles in machine-rest on Peters ballistics ranges at 100 yards. Many of these groups are no larger than a 25-cent piece. And all this means that when you load your target rifle with Peters Dewar Match or Peters Police Match 22's, you're assured all that modern manufacturing minds and machines can provide to help you make a "possible."

It pays to shoot Peters match ammunition. Ask for Peters Dewar Match and Police Match 22's or, for practice, Peters Rustless 22's. Made *by* experts *for* experts, *there's no more accurate rim fire ammunition in the world!*



HE LOOKS FOR TROUBLE. Peters technician squeezes trigger of target rifle in machine-rest, testing accuracy of Peters match 22's. Samples from each lot must pass critical tests. Groups must fall within extremely rigid tolerances.

THE 'SCOPE TELLS THE STORY. Constant vigilance in manufacture and testing has made Peters renowned the world around for match cartridges with uniform accuracy for tight groups... "possibles"... more and more match "wins."

PETERS
PACKS THE POSSIBLES

PETERS CARTRIDGE DIVISION, *Remington Arms Co., Inc., Bridgeport 2, Conn.—"Dewar Match" and "Rustless" are Reg. U. S. Pat. Off; "Police Match" is a trademark of Peters Cartridge Division.*

DU PONT

What is the "best" DEER LOAD?

THIS BUSINESS OF KILLING POWER has been argued, cussed and discussed in every bull session, sports column, and state legislative committee meeting in which deer hunting has come up. The sometimes violent, frequently illogical, but always earnest controversy has almost invariably been touched off by positive statements like these: "I hit him in the gut with that 46 grain .220 slug and he went down like a sack of potatoes," or "I blew his heart to soup with a .30-'06 load but he ran clear into the next county before two dogs could pull him down."

Isolated, fragmentary reports like these are not of much help in settling this controversy over killing power. A lot of substantiated facts from hunters all over the country are needed before any conclusions can be reached. THE RIFLEMAN is undertaking such a study with the idea of throwing some light on this controversial business of deer hunting equipment and performance. With the assistance of every hunter we can reach, it will be possible to compare in graphs and tables large numbers of factual accounts, direct from the field, and to arrive at some logical conclusions on the killing efficiency of various cartridges and bullets.

As soon as a sufficient number of reports are received, the results will be tabulated, analyzed and developed into informative reference articles to be published in THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN. This survey can be of enormous assistance, not only to you as a hunter, but to state game management agencies and to firearms manufacturers themselves. It cannot be done, however, without your immediate help. Fill out the form on the other side of this sheet, and we believe we can promise you a study of deer hunting which will be unique. Volume of returns is our immediate goal, since the accuracy factor of the study depends entirely on analyzing results of large numbers of hunts. You NRA members who killed deer last fall are in a position to make a definite contribution to the science of killing power. With your cooperation we can promise that the task of completing the form on the other side of this sheet will be repaid with shooting dope never before available.

If successful members of your hunting party were men who do not receive THE RIFLEMAN, drop us a line and we will forward additional copies of this blank for their use.

WE'RE GONNA NEED YOUR HELP
THERE HE WAS—
DROPPED RIGHT
IN HIS TRACKS...
By filling out and mailing the survey sheet NOW, you can make it possible for us to give you valuable deer killing information before next fall's hunting trip
So...
PLEASE FILL IN FORM ON REVERSE SIDE....TODAY!

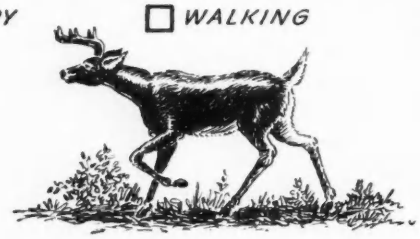
"Report On Deer Killed Last Season"

☐ WHITE TAIL DEER ☐ MULE DEER ☐ BLACK TAIL DEER

☐ BUCK ☐ DOE WEIGHT OF DEER *(Dressed)*_____ LBS.

WHEN SHOT, THE DEER WAS;

☐ *STATIONARY*



☐ *WALKING*

☐ *RUNNING*

RANGE AT WHICH SHOT WAS MADE: *Estimated* _____ *YDS. Measured* _____ *YDS.*

BULLET FLIGHT WAS:

☐ *CLEAR*

☐ *THROUGH BRUSH*

REACTION OF DEER WHEN STRUCK

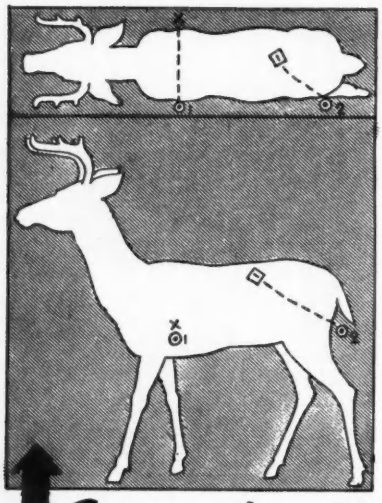
☐ *DROPPED IN TRACKS*

☐ *TRAILED*_____ *YDS.*

RIFLE *(Trade or Common Name)*_____

CARTRIDGE *(Trade Name)*_____

BULLET: *WGT.*_____ *Grains*_____ *Make*_____



LEGEND

BULLET ENTERED ⊙1

PATH OF BULLET ----

EXIT OF BULLET X

LODGED BULLET ---⊟

SECOND SHOT, ETC. ⊙2

RUPTURED CAPILLARIES

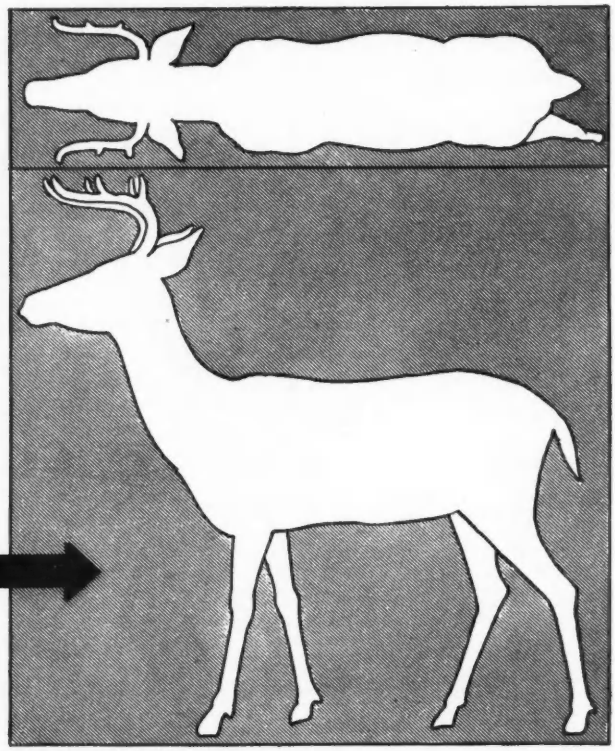
☐ *EYES*

☐ *EARS*

☐ *NOSE*

Example

SHOW HOW YOUR DEER WAS SHOT, USING THE SYMBOLS ABOVE



NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

HUNTING AREA – STATE _____

Remarks:

_____

_____

(IF NECESSARY, ATTACH SHEET WITH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION)

Public Library

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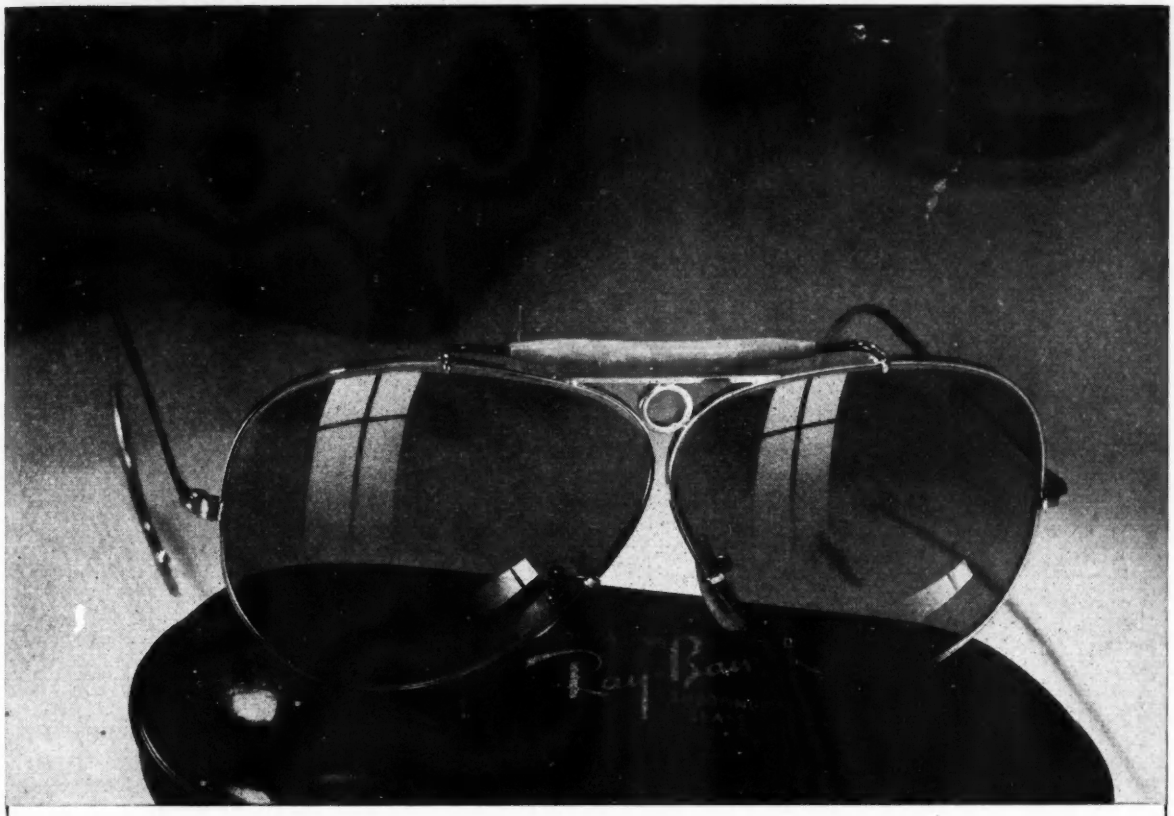

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Look around at the big competitions. You'll find top-ranking shooters wearing Ray-Ban Shooting Glasses. And little wonder! The Ray-Ban glass was designed only after consulting dozens of leading rifle, handgun, trap, and skeet men. They specified the large, deep-curved lenses, shaped to give the widest field of unobstructed vision. They asked for a strong frame, comfortable-on-the-face fit. And they acclaim the unique property of Ray-Ban glass that filters out glare and that transmits a sharp view of the target. In hottest competition . . . or for casual plinking . . . Ray-Ban provides the maximum in cool, comfortable vision and visual efficiency.

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By Charles S. Landis

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This is a book of 521 pages devoted to the increasingly popular .22 caliber "wildcat" rifles and their ammunition. Everything, from the rebuilt singleshot action to the most elaborate custom built center fire bolt action, good for 200 to 400 yard work on turkeys, woodchucks, crows, hawks, coyotes and wolves, is treated in this extensive work. The best selection for any type of shooting, any neighborhood, every distance and every size pocketbook. Good loads are listed, with their possibilities, their average accuracy at each relative distance, their killing power on game and varmints. Here is full and correct technical information on the assembly, adjustment and finishing of the popular wildcat .22's—boring, straightening and rifling of barrels; chambering problems, with special attention to the making of chambering reamers and their correct use; headspace adjustments; throating principles and processes; breeching and firing pin alterations and adjustments. A section of the book is devoted to the suitability of various types and makes of commercial and military rifle actions for conversion into safe and highly accurate varmint rifles. Most of the leading custom riflemakers of the United States and Canada have contributed their eminently qualified views upon this important subject. The vital matter of high-pressure .22 center fire ammunition is equally well handled with dimensional specifications and essential loading data for all of the popular .22 wildcats.

★ ★ ★

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★ ★ ★

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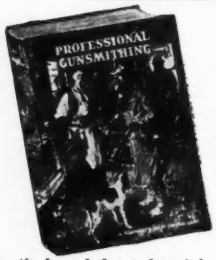

By Walter Howe

Here is a new work written entirely from the professional outlook and devoted mainly to the repair and modification of existing stock weapons. "Professional Gunsmithing" approaches the subject from an entirely new angle, supplementing and enhancing all other previous Samworth books on firearms treating of this vital matter of gun repair and upkeep. It combines both business and technical phases of gunsmithing, in that matters such as time, ethics, price estimation, how to deal with shooters *as customers*, and the idea of doing the job exactly as someone else demands and not as the gunsmith himself might want to do it, are given paramount consideration throughout the text. 520 pages, 110 drawings, 21 plates.

★ ★ ★

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RIFLEMAN WORDS . . . .

Each month this "lexicon for shooters" is devoted to a few words peculiar to the shooting game which may be puzzling to the newcomer. All words defined here are used in a current article.

BULL PUP—A rifle assembled with a special stock in which the action is placed just forward of the buttplate. This results in a rifle of short over-all length. When firing, the shooter's cheek rests along the side of the action.

CHOKE—The constriction in the bore of a shotgun at the muzzle. The spread of the shot pattern is controlled by the shape and degree of the constriction.

DURAL (Duralumin) — An aluminum alloy available in sheets, tubing, bars, and wire, either rolled or extruded. Composition: copper 3.5 to 4.5 percent; magnesium 0.2 to 0.75; manganese 0.4 to 1.0; aluminum, minimum 92.0 percent.

ENFIELD—The Model of 1917 Enfield, patterned after the Pattern 1914 Enfield made in this country for the British Government during the early years of World War I.

FEED MECHANISM—The mechanism in a repeating or semi-automatic gun which directs a cartridge or shell from the magazine into the chamber.

FOOT-POUND—A unit of work or a unit of energy. The kinetic energy or energy of motion of a bullet is expressed in foot-pounds.

KAR 98—Short-barreled or carbine model Mauser rifle.

MUZZLE BRAKE—A device at the muzzle of a gun which deflects the escaping powder gases to the side or rear and reduces the recoil of the gun.

PALM REST—A round or doorknob-shaped piece of material, usually wood, which is mounted on an adjustable stem just forward of the trigger guard. The rifle, when shot standing, is supported at the front by placing the palm rest in the palm of the left hand. This permits resting the shooter's left elbow against his side. Palm rests are permitted in "free rifle" matches only.

PERCUSSION ARM—Customarily used to designate a weapon equipped with nipples for taking a percussion cap. Most percussion weapons are loaded from the muzzle or, in the case of a revolver, from the front end of the cylinder. The percussion primer became obsolete with the advent of breech loading and the metallic cartridge case.

RECEIVER BRIDGE—The part of the receiver of a bolt-action rifle which serves as a guide for the bolt.

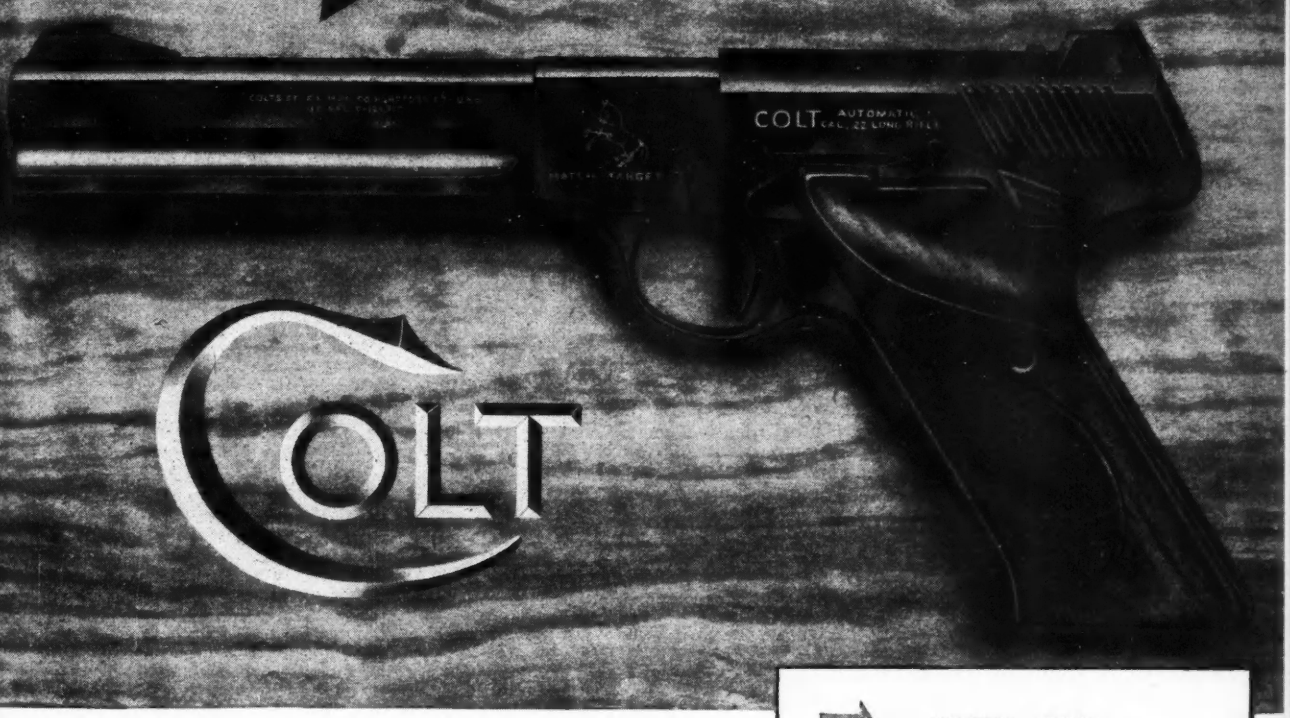
RECEIVER RING—That part of the receiver into which the barrel is threaded.

ROLLING BLOCK—A type of action used on single-shot weapons. The breechblock is hinged below the center of the bore and tips back to permit loading and extraction.

SIGHT EARS—The projections on both sides of the front or rear sight of a rifle. These serve as a protection for the sights.

SIGHT PICTURE—The view of the sight or sights in relation to the target which one gets when aiming a gun.

NEW The Finest Target Gun Ever!



COLT

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Here's Why . . . . . .

HERE'S WHY

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A Word to Target Shooters

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STAND $9.95

The Mossberg "Spotshot" will do everything you require of a spotting scope on the range. A fine, 20-power, achromatic instrument. Notice—*and compare*—the price! And the folding stand, with vertical and horizontal thumb screw adjustments, is another Mossberg "top value." Have a look at these at your dealer's, and you'll agree.

Catalog on request. Sorry, but no sales at the factory.

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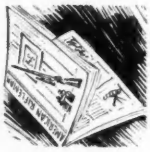
Incidentally . . .

Perhaps you've noticed . . . last month and again this month we've set aside some special pages for the subject of books and the world of reading. The last few pages of the Arms Chest seemed the only place we could surely mark off, each month, as a section for reviewing new books . . . a place, too, where we could remind you of the many good books, old or new, in the gun field. We'll admit there's a commercial slant to this position . . . we'll be carrying advertisements of books available through the NRA Book Service or from the publishers. But, so far as we are able, there will not be a commercial slant to the reviews. We have what we consider an able list of reviewers, men who are acquainted with the literature of the various subjects, whose opinion you'll value.



While any book review is usually a personal opinion, the experience of these reviewers should insure an honest appraisal and an impartial estimate of worth. So . . . we call your attention to our new "Book Review" section. We hope you'll enjoy it and find it valuable.

☆ ☆ ☆

Another section we'd like to feature more is strictly your section . . . "Ricochets," the letters page. This can be the open forum of opinions, suggestions, criticisms . . . and when they're especially well written, or well taken, we like to publish them. They make good reading, for us and for all of you. We're not thin-skinned (we hope) and the sharp jibes have equal chance with the praise, if any.

Then, turn about, this is "our" page . . . a chance to talk about the behind-the-scenes of magazine publishing . . . this magazine . . . And since we've grown from a normal 70,000 or 80,000 to 240,000, we've been caught short on paper, presses, personnel, and patience . . . if you'll pardon the alliteration.

☆ ☆ ☆

The old RIFLEMAN was normally sixty-four pages . . . the new 1947 edition has ninety-six. The old model was well within the capabilities and capacity of what we considered the highest-quality printers. Additional pages, plus illustrations in color extends that plant to the limit, until new presses can be obtained. The early 1945 model could be printed from the original type and engraver's cuts. When we passed the 150,000 mark, complete electroplates of each page were required. That entailed extra days for manufacture. And those extra days add up on one end of the calendar or the other. We would prefer they be added to the first part . . . before manufacture. But advertising deadlines, for instance, are published widely . . . it takes at least three months' notification to change them. A few months ago we gave the necessary notice, moved deadlines from the fifth of the month back to the first (for this April issue, the first of March). To our advertisers . . . all of you who use the classified ads, don't be surprised when we move from the first to the twenty-fifth of the preceding month. Again, we will give the proper notice. That may be necessary in order to get more needed time for manufacture. There is a time consumption of approximately twelve days for classified ads alone. They go through our mail room . . . are sent to the Technical Division for any necessary clarification and for propriety. They are then classified, typed up, sent to the printer . . . come back to us in the long galley sheets . . . are proofread, and then set up alongside the small or large display ads.

☆ ☆ ☆

Next month, you'll be thinking of varmint shooting again . . . and there'll be an article on hunting Mr. Woodchuck, plus a Dope Bag Review of the newest things in short varmint scopes, by Al Barr. For the competitive shooter, a beginner's impressions of match firing with the Garand, and for the old gun fancier; part one of a new study of Sam Colt's first military handguns. We'll be running, too, another of that RIFLEMAN series on favorite American game cartridges, and the second part of C. H. Howell's survey of World War II sniping equipment . . . covering Russia, Switzerland, Japan and the United States. And there'll be features on reloading, gunsmithing. wildcat cartridges, ballistics . . . the sort of line-up that makes THE RIFLEMAN a shooter's encyclopedia.

COVER

As evidenced by the cover photo, National Small Bore champ G. Wayne Moore, of Washington, Pa., has no trouble getting into those torturing positions used in gallery matches. Wayne, in fact, is a greatly feared man in an indoor event, as you'll find by reading Ray Stann's story, "Small Bore's Mr. Big," headlining this issue.

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The AMERICAN RIFLEMAN

Official Journal of the National Rifle Association of America

VOLUME 95 NUMBER 4

APRIL 1947

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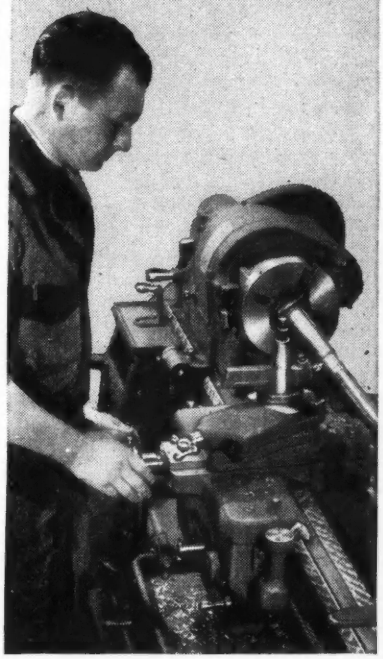
PROFIT FROM VERSATILITY



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Just Grass Roots Stuff!

PUBLIC OPINION is the most powerful influence in the world. Did you ever ask yourself "What makes 'public opinion'?" Newspapers? Then how could Franklin D. Roosevelt have been four times elected President of the United States with the majority of newspapers opposing him? Radio? Then why does radio so often find it advisable to change its programs or to 'put the brakes on' some noted commentator? Political speeches? How many times has a political speech caused *you* to change your opinion?

The truth is that public opinion is the product of what the people, individually and in family groups, see, feel, and discuss among themselves. It is "grass roots" stuff! In every family there is one person, be it parent, child, or boarder, whose opinions are given particular weight on particular subjects. In every luncheon club, in every card club, in every shop and in every board of directors, the opinions of certain individuals are particularly respected on certain subjects. In the day-to-day contacts of these and similar groups of everyday citizens at home, at work, and at play, *public opinion* is unconsciously but inevitably formed.

Public opinion is the only force that can put an end to the recurrent efforts of the oddly assorted group who take advantage of every opportunity to foist a Gestapo-type of firearms registration on the American citizen. *You*, Mr. and Mrs. Shooter, can mold that public opinion and you *must* mold it because *you* are in the family group, the club, the shop, the board of directors where public opinion is made. In each such group *you* are probably the person who best understands and can most intelligently discuss the many angles involved in a question so seemingly simple as gun registration. Is the 'public opinion' of your group wrong about guns and their use? Then *you* must straighten out their thinking because only *you* are in a position to do so!

All year 'round we receive forceful letters, splendidly logical letters, from sportsmen complaining about proposed legislation, newspaper editorials, or statements by local officials concerning antifirearms proposals. These letters tell *us* why the writer is opposed to antigun laws. We have published through the years most of those arguments. So why take the time to write us? Why not write the same letter but address it to the legislator, the newspaper editor, the local official who needs to know that 'public opinion' is not all on his side?

Whether or not he knows it, the average member of the NRA and reader of THE RIFLEMAN is a man better informed on guns and gun laws than most of his acquaintances. Hundreds of NRA stalwarts have told us that they revel in their positions as gun oracles for the community. Since this is true, you hold in your hands, individually, the power to mold public opinion in a direction that will eliminate for a long time the spectre of antigun legislation. Have you ever discussed the matter at the family dinner table? Have you encouraged the youngsters to discuss it in debates or theme papers at school? What do your fellow members in the Chamber of Commerce know about it? Or in the Bar Association? Or in the men's club at church? Or the men and women with whom you discuss politics, vacations, and wages at the shop or office?

Public opinion is being formed all about you all the time! *You*, not the editor of THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN, reach the people who aren't shooters but who *are* 'public opinion.' Keep a tally, and you will be very happy at the end of just one month to count how many have said to you, "By golly, you are right! I never realized there was so much to this gun registration business. From now on I'm against it!"

Public opinion is the most powerful force in America. There is no magic about it. It grows up from the grass roots!—C. B. L.

G. Wayne Moore, who ought to know, says that you can't win rifle matches unless you shoot in rifle matches. His philosophy is as simple as that.

Moore, you may recall, is the fellow with the wooden leg and borrowed rifle who set Camp Perry on its ear last fall by making off with the National Small-Bore Championship while the "wise boys" were looking the other way. It may have been an "upset" victory as the Press Office gang termed it . . . but shooters who have met Wayne on the range will tell you it was no fluke. It was the culmination of that same Moore philosophy.

WAYNE MOORE IS A NEW KIND OF CHAMP—A HARD WORKING, SERIOUS SPARE-TIME SPORTSMAN

SMALL BORE'S MR. BIG

By RAY STANN

"I can't see these shooters who won't go to a match because they say they haven't got a chance to beat the hot-shots anyway," he says. "By George, I took my share of beatings for a long, long time, but I never passed up any shootin' match because of it. I like to shoot and I like to win more than 'most anyone I know, but you're just not a-goin' to win against the big-timers unless you compete against 'em every chance you get —and learn how to beat 'em."

That's the reason Wayne can't understand how a shooter can afford to waste a single tournament shot—or even a practice shot.

"I've seen shooters blow up in the first stage of a match, for instance, and then get that what-the-hell attitude and spray the landscape with the rest of their shots. By George, they don't even try to find out why they messed up those shots. They could learn a lot in that second stage if they really tried. You don't learn about shooting when things are a-goin' good; you learn the most in the tough matches. Yessir, if a fellow will just go out and shoot often enough against the good shooters . . . and he might just as well get beat by the best if he's gonna get beat anyway . . . and learn while he's losin', why someday he's gonna find out he isn't losin' any more."

Wayne, who has spent his entire life around Washington, Pennsylvania, comes from an area where anyone but a good shooter can take an awful lot of beatings in the course of a year. Outsiders—even those with high national rankings—will testify that the competition in Western Pennsylvania and Eastern Ohio is as stiff as in any other section of the country. 'Tis said that veteran New Haven rifleman Jack Lacy, when asked just before the 1946 Nationals to name his five choices for the small-bore crown, listed two from Washington, Pennsylvania, alone. One of these was Wayne Moore, who won it, and the other was cousin Bob Moore, who finished fifth. Coming from Lacy, who is no slouch himself and who has made many a trip into that area, those selections were an indication of much respect as well as excellent prognostication.

The fact that the thirty-nine-year-old Wayne was dubbed in the press as a "dark-horse victor" of the championship in no way is to detract from his ability The guy just wasn't known outside of his own territory. Within that territory, however, the men who have seen him rise to the top will tell you that probably the only reason he never won the title before is that he never tried for it. True, he had been to Perry once before—in 1939—but only for two days and he was not entered in the aggregate. It isn't that he doesn't want to travel to matches outside his own area . . . he simply can't spend too much time away from his shop and, besides, shooting can run into money.

Very frankly Wayne will tell you that he isn't too much interested in a tournament which doesn't give him a crack at a money prize. "I'm just a working guy who's got to buy gro-

ceries for the family, and I like to get some of the money back that I put into equipment and travel expenses. But don't misunderstand. I'm not a-tryin' to make a living off of shooting even though some folks seem to think I'm doing a lot better than I really am. . . ."

He was referring to some of his Washington neighbors who, ignorant of the ways of the shooting sport, still have the idea that the personable body-and-fender man cashed a right sizeable check as a result of his victory at Perry.

"To make things worse," he complains. "I quit my job just about the time of the Nationals and moved into my own shop as soon as I got back. It was a thing that my partner, Andy Anderson, and I had planned for a long time but it's hard to get some folks to believe that I didn't walk out on my job and open up in business for myself on the money I supposedly won at Perry. Now who would believe that in the money pool out there all I got was a grand total of seventy dollars?"

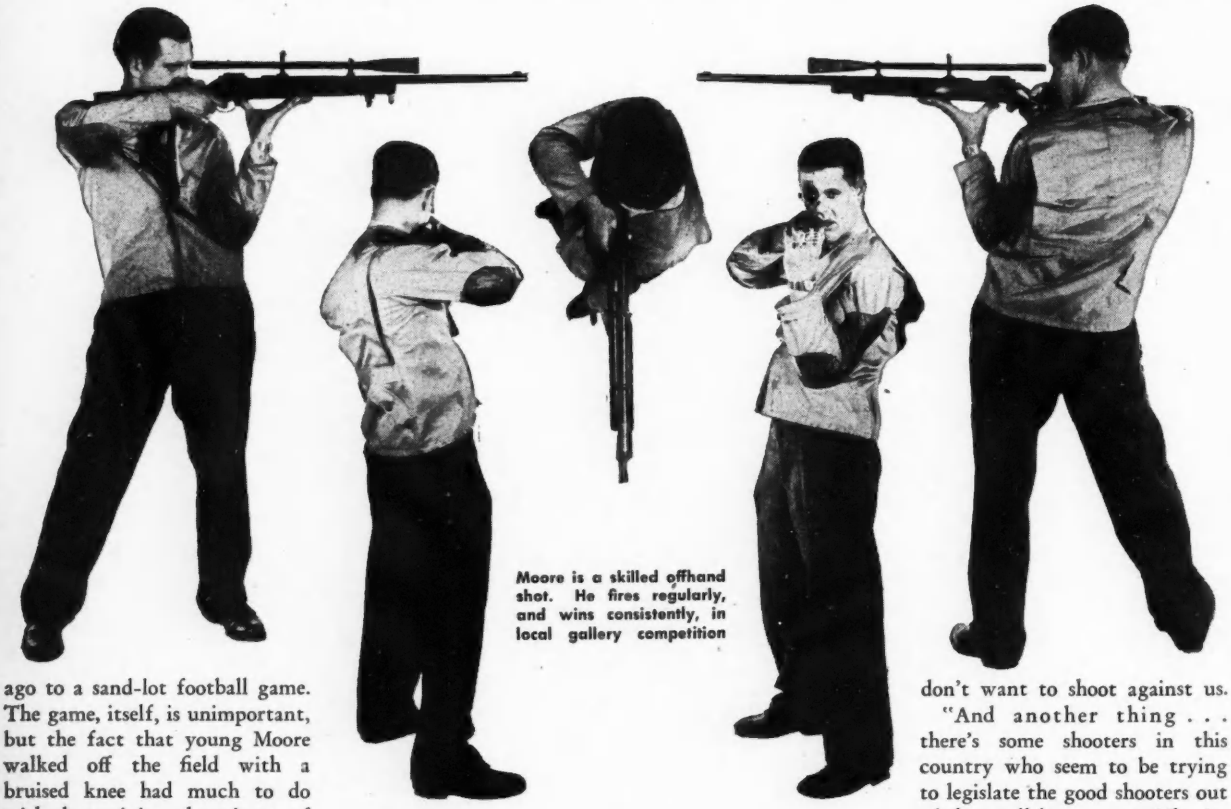
Wayne's entry into the small-bore competitive field—though it actually occurred in 1936—dates back some twenty-five years ago to a sand-lot football game. The game, itself, is unimportant, but the fact that young Moore walked off the field with a bruised knee had much to do with determining the winner of the 1946 Nationals. Three weeks after the game Wayne began to feel pains in that knee . . . two weeks more and the boy's left leg was amputated just above the knee to stop the spread of tuberculosis of the bone.

"But it takes more than the loss of one leg to keep a kid that age down," he recalls now. "Soon as I got my crutches I learned to get around well enough to get back to my hunting and ball playing. I could do most everything I did before they took off the leg.

"If you're wondering whether the fact that I have an artificial leg helps me or hurts me in my shooting now, I'd say that it doesn't . . . now. But here's something the accident did for me, I think. All those years I went around on crutches—and I used them up until I stopped growing—sure did build up my arms and shoulders. I think that's been a help . . ."

When Wayne first started doing some indoor shooting with the old Sprowl's Rifle and Pistol Club in Washington eleven years ago, he recalls, there wasn't a fellow in town who could average more than 150 to 160 in four positions . . . "and that's the score we aimed for. We even got to thinking we were pretty good until we spread out a little and had a few club matches with the hot-shots around Pittsburgh. And then . . . man, what beatings we took!"

"That's the reason I say you've gotta get up against the good shooters. A fellow gets tired of gettin' beat all the time and he'll either quit or make up his mind to get good enough to do a little beating on his own. Well, by George, we got good enough to come out ahead, and now there's a lot of clubs that don't want to shoot against us.



Moore is a skilled offhand shot. He fires regularly, and wins consistently, in local gallery competition

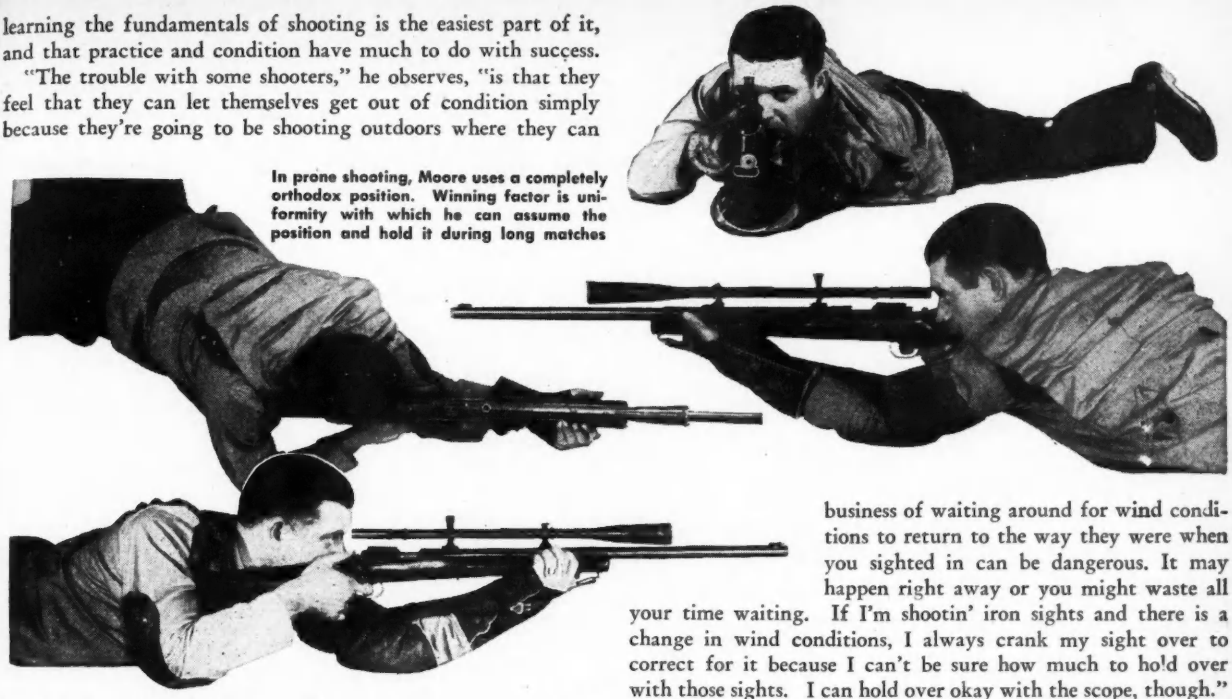
"And another thing . . . there's some shooters in this country who seem to be trying to legislate the good shooters out of the small-bore game. They're asking for special classes, special matches, special conditions, and I don't know what all for the top-ranking men, just so they won't have to shoot against us. Well, by George, that ain't right. If I can go out and shoot 300 to 400 rounds a week in practice—with ammo that I buy myself—then let them do the same thing if they want to beat us."

Wayne, you see, is a man of very definite opinions about the shooting sport.

Like pistol champion Harry Reeves, Moore believes that

learning the fundamentals of shooting is the easiest part of it, and that practice and condition have much to do with success.

"The trouble with some shooters," he observes, "is that they feel that they can let themselves get out of condition simply because they're going to be shooting outdoors where they can



In prone shooting, Moore uses a completely orthodox position. Winning factor is uniformity with which he can assume the position and hold it during long matches

just lay down on their bellies and shoot. That's not good. With me at least, when I'm down there tryin' to outsmart the wind and mirage there often seems to be a sixth sense which tells me when not to shoot. Everything may look all right but a lot of times when that happens I can go back onto my sighter and fire the shot . . . and, by George, it's generally out. If I had fired that shot for record I would've dropped a point. Now that won't happen if I'm sluggish and out of condition. There's more to physical condition than just body fitness . . . there's mental alertness, too."

Sixth sense or not, Wayne qualifies as one of the smartest shooters in the game when wind conditions are the toughest. Fellow club members, who have seen Wayne and cousin Bob match shot with shot for years are divided in their opinions as to which is the better of the two. Over a period of years hardly more than a point ever separates the pair but an argument over their relative merits will always end with the question, "What kind of range conditions are you talking about?" Even Wayne will admit that Bob's hold is steadier; and Bob will admit his match when a breeze is up.

"There's an awful lot to this wind doping, as everyone who has ever fired outdoors knows," says the champion. "And it would be mighty hard to tell anyone just how to go about it. In the first place, every range is different and it is up to the individual shooter to learn its characteristics before he fires a record shot. I shoot fast . . . generally finish a twenty-shot string in about eight to twelve minutes . . . and a lot of my time is spent on the sighter, both before and during the record firing. Bob, though, takes more time than any shooter I know and he goes through every possible different condition that can happen in twenty minutes. That's where shooting fast has an advantage. You often can get off several shots before there is any change.

"If there is a change I try to follow along with it. This business of waiting around for wind conditions to return to the way they were when you sighted in can be dangerous. It may happen right away or you might waste all your time waiting. If I'm shootin' iron sights and there is a change in wind conditions, I always crank my sight over to correct for it because I can't be sure how much to hold over with those sights. I can hold over okay with the scope, though."

In the way of equipment, Wayne has a houseful of rifles and scopes . . . but insists on using Bob's eight-year-old Winchester 52 in competition. This rifle, discarded at one time for inefficiency and later revitalized by an enterprising gunsmith who removed one barrel thread, is shared by Wayne, Bob, and Bob's wife, Birdie, whom the cousins are grooming as the next National Women's Champion. Oddly enough, however, it was not with the Winchester that Wayne won his title at Perry.

"I shot with Bob's 52 all summer long and did pretty well with it," he explains. "But Bob Gideon, another member of our club, had a beaut of a Remington with an Eric Johnson barrel that he offered to let me take to the Nationals. Gideon had just had a rough day over at Marietta (Ohio) and was pretty well disgusted . . . not with the rifle, mind you; with himself. I told him that, by gosh, under the wind conditions at that match . . . which were terrible . . . he shouldn't feel that way, but he had decided he wasn't going to Perry and that I could use the gun if I wanted it. So, I took it along and you know the rest."

The "rest" was that Wayne went on to win the U. S. Cartridge Trophy Match over the Dewar Course, finish third in two other events, and quietly accumulated enough points in the other tests to win the Critchfield Trophy by six points. The newspapers hopped on the angle of the borrowed gun and spread the story that Gideon had lent it out because he was disgusted with it.

"No, Gideon was disgusted with himself; not the gun," repeats Wayne. "He knew what the gun could do. He was awful mad about that story."

If Wayne Moore is a tough customer outdoors, he is all the more impressive on the indoor range. Unlike many top-notch "belly-floppers" who won't stand on their feet and shoot, he is one of the most feared offhand riflemen in the country, maintaining an average of ninety-seven points in league firing during this past indoor season. *(Continued on page 20)*

LONG RANGE SHOOTING IS STILL AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN ANY MAN'S ARMY

SNIPING RIFLES

By C. H. HOWELL, JR.

PART ONE: GERMANY, ENGLAND, NORWAY, AND DENMARK

MODERN SNIPING EQUIPMENT presents one of the anomalies of the second World War. While other equipment was being mechanized, lightened, and made more practical for field use, the poor infantry soldier who had the misfortune of being a better shot than his fellows or who volunteered for "special training" found himself loaded down with a ponderous rifle and telescope equalling in weight some of the old twelve-pound Sharps Buffalo guns his great-grandfather may have carried into the Kansas Territory. Take, for example, the British sniping rifle (Figure 1). Basically, it is the "Rifle, No. 4, Mark 1," the ordinary short Lee-Enfield, in .303 caliber. This relic of Vimy Ridge, Neuve Chapelle, and Ypres was rebuilt shortly before the war with a slightly simplified action and a heavier barrel in order to expedite mass production. Among the modifications added to the sniping rifle, after serious deliberation, was a roughly shaped chunk of wood intended to serve as a cheekpiece and comb raiser. It is held in place by a pair of wood screws. After the wood splits, you can take out the screws if they bother you. There are a few longitudinal grooves cut into the forearm where your hand rests. The grooves are intended to prevent the hand from slipping. Actually they assist it in doing so. All right, admit that the rifle was a tough nut to work on, with its two-piece stock and rear locking bolt, and let's see what kind of optical gadget the transformed British citizen gets for his tax money when he starts drawing pay as a sniper. The "Sight, Telescopic, No. 32, Mark 1" viewed from the rear looks like any other rifle telescope, but about two-thirds up the length of the thing is a solid bronze block completely surrounding the telescope tube. On one side, and on the top, are dials inscribed in minutes. These dials have inner recesses with wrench lugs on them. You can easily change the windage or the elevation on this outfit IF you have the separate small wrench required to turn them, or maybe you carry a pair of long-nosed pliers in your pocket. This system of adjusting telescopes may be a solution for the fellow who is bothered by his friend's changing the sight on his favorite hunting rifle, but it is troublesome to a sniper trying to put a shot through a loophole at 400 yards. The optics of the telescope are good, and it is provided with a draw-type sunshade of simple design. Evidently the British thought a good deal of this telescope because they provided the sight with the "Case, Telescopic, for Sight, Telescopic, No. 32, Mark 1." This is a nice metal case, partially watertight. It holds the complete outfit, and weighs almost two pounds. The scope and mount weigh two and a quarter pounds. So, the sniper carries an issue rifle weighing nine and one-half pounds plus four pounds for the sighting equipment. Rather a stiff penalty for being a good shot, what? I haven't said anything about the mount. There isn't much to say. It consists of a heavy base forging, with two thumbscrews that tighten into two separate bases on the left side of the receiver, and a couple of telescope tube rings. Each top half of the ring is clamped over the telescope in the usual manner. It is rugged, but all this weight puts a heavy strain on the two locking screws so that their tendency to loosen is not a great surprise.

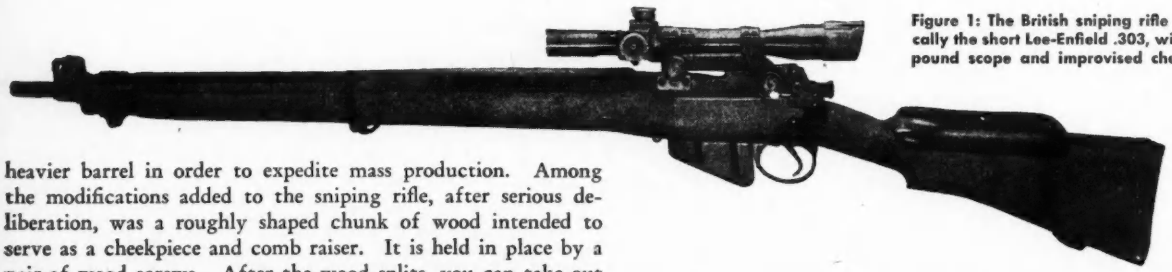


Figure 1: The British sniping rifle is basically the short Lee-Enfield .303, with a 2¼ pound scope and improvised cheek rest

In comparison with the standard service rifle, the accuracy of this piece is superior. Rifles were carefully "adjusted" to required standards with their own particular telescope before being issued. And, incidentally, if anyone is interested in the effects of bedding on rifle accuracy, I recommend that he read the old "Textbook of Small Arms, 1929." The trials and tribulations of the long-suffering British Ordnance officers with the Lee-Enfield during its progression through a long series of Marks and Stars is recounted in considerable detail.

There was an old army song popular about 1898 or 1900 that said something about "Civilize 'em with a Krag." The Norwegians did just that with their long-barreled Krag fitted with a telescope in an offset mount on the left side of the receiver. The Krag is a grand old rifle, and it helped to win our war with Spain, but a rifle with a thirty-inch barrel is hardly the weapon to carry around during martial exercises in mountainous terrain. It did, however, kill German soldiers at ranges of 1,200 meters.

The Danes use another version of the Krag, and put a twenty-six-and-one-half-inch barrel on it, quite similar in contour to our old Springfield Model T rifle barrel. The front sight is a hooded globe, while the rear sight is a micrometer affair having provision for windage and elevation adjustment similar to that of the Lyman 48. The stock has a small pistol grip, placed well forward and a high-combed stock as illustrated in Figure 2; which shows both the sniper's rifle and the Danish carbine.

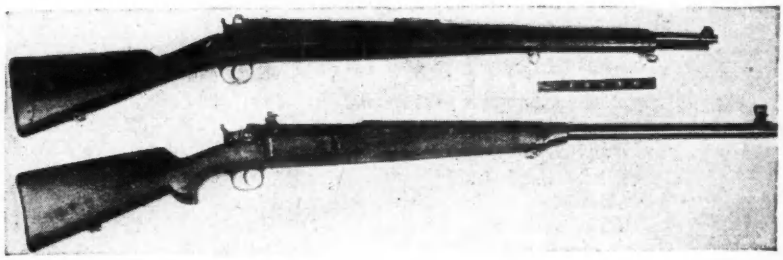


Figure 2: The Krag is used by both Norway and Denmark. These two are the Danish carbine and (below) the longer-barreled Danish sniping rifle, with special stock and target-type sights

If profusion of types means anything except desperation or extensive experimentation, the Germans ought to have had the best sniping equipment of World War II. They put telescopes on nearly all of their small arms, including a few of the MP 44's, the little carbines which carry a thirty-round magazine in a stamped metal receiver. Few of these were in actual service.

The principal sniping rifle of the Germans was the familiar Mauser 98K, which is a little-changed version of the KAR 98a of 1917. The bolt handle was bent down and minor details like the stacking hooks and sights were modified or eliminated, but nothing else was done to this basic design other than the addition of telescope bases. The earlier rifles carry a two-piece mount, illustrated in Figures 4a and b. The front base is in the form of a turret, screwed and soldered to the receiver ring. The inner portion of the turret is machined in the form of a truncated cone, with an undercut ring providing a bearing surface for a tension spring on the front telescope base. A U-shaped slot is milled through the turret parallel to the barrel to provide a limited view of the iron sights. The rear base is mounted on the receiver bridge, and held by solder and two screws. Formed in the shape of a letter H lying on its side, the rear base is fitted with one locking screw and a quick-acting clamp, which engages on the side of the rear telescope base. The telescope mounts are soldered directly to the tube, without the usual screw-type friction clamp. The front mount fits into the front base when inserted at 90 degrees to the receiver, while the rear mount slides over the rear base and is locked in position by the clamp. Windage is provided in the rear mount and, much like the British outfit, requires a special wrench in the form of an old-fashioned clock key to adjust it. The telescope sits so high over the barrel that holes through the bases permit the iron sights to be used in the customary European manner. This mount is very strong and is quite light in weight, the telescope tube itself forming the only connection between the bases.

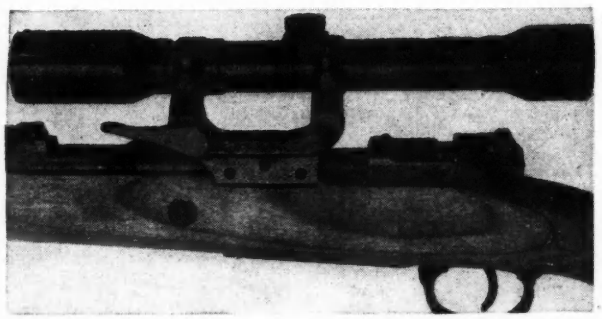


Figure 3: This mount was used on the German 98K rifles, with such sporting type scopes as the Zielvier, Ziel-Dialyt 4 power, and 4 power Ajax

Most of the telescopes used on these rifles were Hensoldt Dialytan 4X, or their wartime equivalent made by various manufacturers. Later models of this rifle often have variations in the dimensions of the mounts themselves that prohibit interchangeability with those of another manufacturer. The telescopes that I have examined appear to be of uniform quality, and all of them have been of 4 power, while the reticule most frequently used is a picket post with horizontal crossbars. Many other types were also used.

Following this sniping rifle the Germans brought out a side mount quite similar to the Griffin & Howe double-lever mount, with the exception that the German mount has a single locking lever located at the front end of the telescope base, as shown in Figure 3. Apparently this mount was issued as an alternate item to the one described above, for rifles using this mount were equipped with telescopes of various commercial types, including the Heliavier, Zielvier, Ziel-Dialyt 4X, Ziel-jagd 4X, Ajax 4X, and Zielsechs.

Evidently the *Heereswaffenamt* (Ordnance Office) received indignant letters from their customers complaining about the stability of the fixed bases on these side mounts, for some of the later rifles have special receivers with the left side of the receiver formed flat, and the fixed base fastened to the receiver with three screws and three pins. The earlier rifles had standard receivers and the base was attached with three screws only.

The side mount, although resulting in a less cumbersome arrangement than the top mount, is not as sturdy and rugged

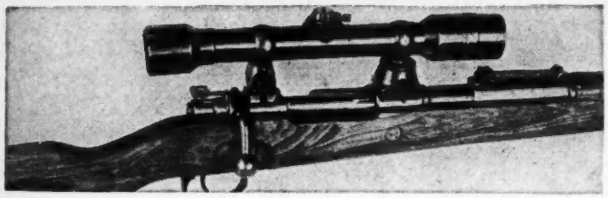


Figure 4a: Earlier models of the German 98K were fitted with this two-piece mount. Bolt of rifle was bent to clear enlarged eyepiece of scope

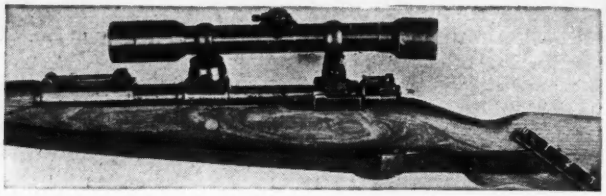


Figure 4b: Left side of same rifle. Windage adjustments are in the rear base. Scope is the Dialytan 4 power, with internal elevation adjustment

as the former. While both of the above types of rifles that I have fired have been equally accurate, I have found that the fixed base of the side mount on the early models should be sweated or pinned to the receiver for additional rigidity.

German specifications required that these rifles place five shots at 100 meters in a circle of 70 mm. diameter, and that three of the shots should be within 50 mm. of the aiming point.

Both of these rifles have given me five-shot groups at 100 yards of less than two inches extreme spread, using wartime ammunition of uncertain origin and condition, and ten-shot groups of about three inches extreme spread. I can hear the voices of those fortunate owners of rifles which always shoot three-quarter-inch groups at 100 yards saying, "A two-inch group for five shots at 100 yards! Does he call that shooting? Why, my .219 Varminter will . . ." Well, this article is about military sniping rifles, not finicky target rifles. Anyhow, a good shot could undoubtedly improve on the size groups I have been making.

The Germans hit on one good stunt that directly affected the accuracy of their rifles. They developed a laminated-wood stock, composed of many layers of fir, or other woods, bonded with a phenolic resin to form a very dense "plywood." These stocks are not subject to the warping that is inherently associated with the use of walnut in gunstocks, in addition to being much stronger. I have had one of the Mauser sniper's rifles completely out of the stock seven times and it has not yet changed its original zero. Try that on your .219 Varminter some day!

One of the most interesting attempts of the Germans to provide a simple optical sight for rifles resulted in a short, low-powered telescope mounted on a special side bracket on the rear sight base of the Mauser 98K. Figure 5 shows the details of this sight. The field of view of this telescope, called the ZF 41/1, is limited, and as the objective lens is only 10 mm. in diameter, it is apparent that the designer intended that the rifle would be aimed close to the target by the iron sights, and then the final aiming and firing would be done with the aid of this little telescope. A rotating ring on the tube provides means of adjusting the elevation, but no windage adjustment is included. Its most interesting feature is the exceptionally long eye relief, which measures sixteen and one-half inches. This innovation was quite a surprise to many American riflemen, who had thought for years that six inches was the maximum eye relief possible to build into a rifle telescope. Some telescope makers were surprised, too. Apparently, the application of the idea was not entirely successful, for very few of the telescopes were issued after the Germans were forced out of Africa.

A few of the old World War I Mauser sniper's rifles that somehow missed the grand cleanup in 1919 were dug up and issued. Some of these rifles have side bracket mounts, and others have commercial mounts that were easily adapted to military actions.

A carrying case was originally provided for the German telescopes, most of them being of pressed steel, while others were of leather. Light in weight, they afforded a good measure of protection to the telescope when it was not in use.

The German sniper had to carry a heavy outfit while he hunted for victims to be counted toward his Sharpshooter's Badge (awarded to those who killed twenty of the enemy), for his rifle weighed nine and one-quarter pounds and his sighting equipment two pounds more, and although he could spot his British opponent two pounds at least, many of the German snipers must have thought wistfully of their Mannlicher-Schoenauer carbines and seven-pound Mauser sporters at home.

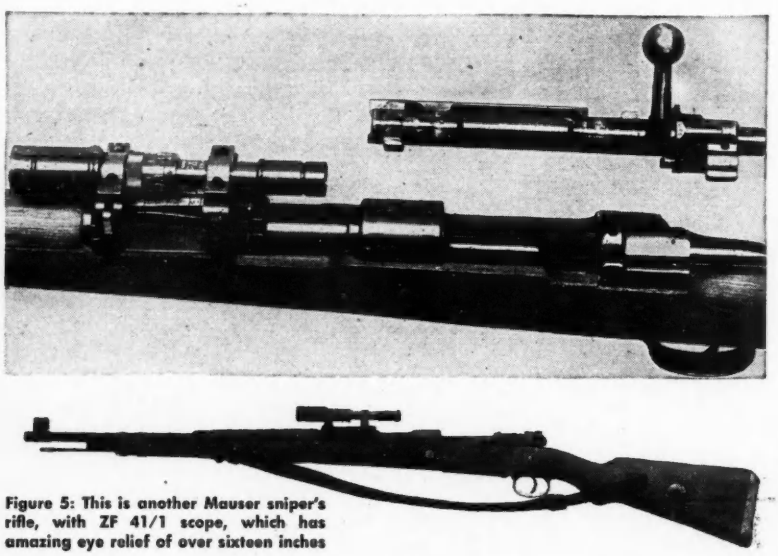


Figure 5: This is another Mauser sniper's rifle, with ZF 41/1 scope, which has amazing eye relief of over sixteen inches

Before the War, the Germans failed to foresee the advantage of having each rifleman equipped with a self-loading rifle, and consequently were forced to develop and manufacture a new weapon during wartime. Their first attempt which actually put rifles in the field, was a gas-operated affair called the GEW 41. This rifle was unsatisfactory, very expensive to manufacture, and production was soon discontinued, but not before the Germans had made a telescope sight for it. The ZF 43 (B) tele-

scopic sight for this rifle, illustrated in Figure 7, is seven and one-half inches long and has an ocular lens diameter of 18 mm. The objective lens is 22 mm. in diameter, while the field of view is 5 degrees. The telescope is rated at 4X. Internal adjustment for elevation is provided by means of the dial located on top of the telescope tube, and windage is obtained by rotating the large handwheel on the right side of the base. The telescope is mounted on a sliding base over the fixed base of the rear sight of the rifle. This position necessitates an eye relief of approximately thirteen and one-half inches. The mount is a sturdy and quite heavy forging, machined on the bearing surfaces to provide for accurate alignment with the base. It would be difficult to become accustomed to the appearance of this arrangement, since it resembles a piece of coast artillery, but the optical characteristics of this telescope and its system of mounting appear to be well worth further development.

Since the GEW 41 was unsuccessful, another design was produced, this time the GEW 43, or KAR 43, as rifles of later manufacture are marked. This rifle is gas operated, employing a gas-piston system located over the top of the barrel. It is fed by a detachable ten-shot magazine, which may be reloaded through the top of the receiver, or replaced with a loaded one when the cartridges have been exhausted. The major parts are smooth forgings, machined only where there are mating surfaces or bearing parts. This gives the rifle a rough look, but does not detract from its military usefulness. The bolt is locked into the receiver ring by the action of the bolt carrier body forcing two locking studs into the sides of the receiver ring. The trigger mechanism, which is capable of semiautomatic fire only, may be adjusted for weight by means of a screw located on the trigger. A dovetail rib is machined on the right side of the receiver on nearly all of these rifles to permit the

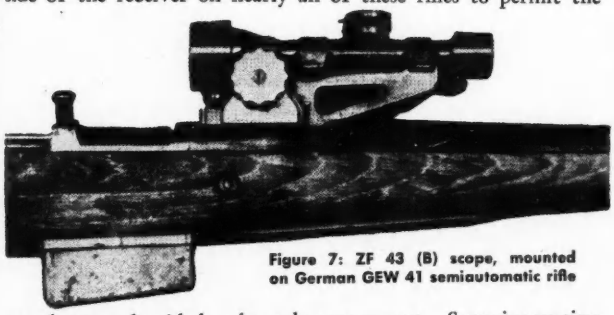


Figure 7: ZF 43 (B) scope, mounted on German GEW 41 semiautomatic rifle

attachment of a side bracket telescope mount. Some interesting questions may be raised at this point about the intentions of the German Army toward telescope sights in general as a result of this construction. First: Was it intended to equip all GEW 43 rifles with telescopic sights? Second: Was the value of telescopic-sighted rifles sufficient in the minds of the Germans to warrant such a decision? Third: Was the effect of telescopic-sighted rifles in the hands of the Allies against the Germans so great that the Germans concluded that they wanted them, too? The cost of adding the telescope base to all of the receivers in production would be considerably more than could be justified by their occasional use, as required for the normal distribution of sniping rifles, usually not more than two per infantry company. Whatever the answers, the last standard German Army rifle was

Figure 8: The ZF 4 scope, as mounted on a KAR 43 semiautomatic rifle

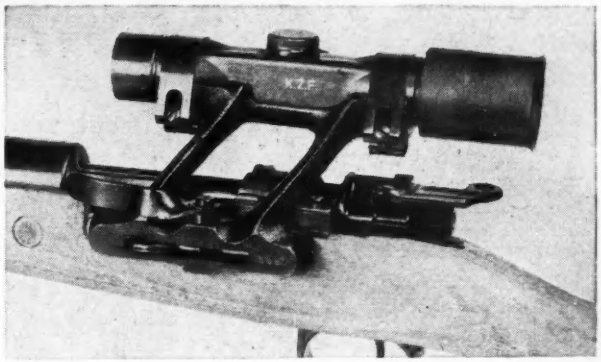


Figure 6: This ZF 4 scope is mounted on a German 98K. Scope is secured by steel tension straps. Mount is swept back to compensate for short eye relief

issued with the telescope base formed as an integral part of the rifle, as it should be for all rifles to be used with a telescope sight.

The telescope used on this rifle, and illustrated in Figure 8, is the 4-power GEW ZF 4, a sight of considerable military merit. Its weight of eight ounces is not objectionable, and its length of six inches is an advantage. The tube diameter of approximately 30 mm. is adequate to provide sufficient bearing area for mounting the telescope rigidly by tension straps over recessed portions of the tube. This telescope has both internal windage and elevation adjustment changed by graduated dials which may be rotated after removing small pressed-metal dust covers. The eye relief is about four inches and the 8 degree field of view is adequate for the purpose intended, while the 25 mm. objective lens diameter admits a reasonable amount of light. In order to simplify manufacture of this telescope the tube was formed with cylindrical portions at both ends, while approximately half of the central portion is square in cross section. This was very thoughtful of the Germans, since this square section affords the home gunsmith a fine flat place to screw a side plate mount, and the telescope can then be used on a small-caliber rifle quite easily.

The mount for this telescope on the Mauser 98K (Figure 6) is a single-piece smooth forging, with a locking lever and a detent catch. The telescope rests in a V-trough, similar to an engineer's Y-level. Two steel tension straps loop over the top of the telescope and fasten it rigidly to the mount. The lower portion of the mount has a long dovetail slot cut into it which slides over a mating dovetail on the left side of the receiver of the rifle. The telescope is raised above the receiver rather high, and the bracket is swept to the rear in order to bring the eye within the range of the eye relief. The entire assembly is very awkward-looking and apparently represents an attempt to mount the ZF 4 telescope on the Mauser rifles by an adaptation of the same mounting system that they used on the GEW 43 rifles, with the exception that the Mauser mount is on the left side of the receiver, while that on the GEW 43 is mounted on the right-hand side, and the GEW 43 mount has vertical brackets instead of the swept-back type illustrated in Figure 6. The weight of the mount for the GEW 43 is twelve ounces, and its simplicity of manufacture makes it an attractive mount from the military standpoint. (*To be concluded.*) ♣ ♣ ♣

PORTABLE SHOOTING BENCH

GUN WRITER PHIL SHARPE DESCRIBES THE STURDY PORTABLE REST HE HAS USED FOR TEN YEARS

THIS PORTABLE SHOOTING BENCH was designed on a trial-and-error basis about ten years ago. I wanted something that was sturdy enough for precision rest shooting, yet sufficiently portable to permit ready transportation in a car.

The secret of a rest that will last for years is proper wood. This one is made from well-seasoned birch, although any hardwood will do. Soft woods do not stand up. All parts of the bench except the table top were made from two-and-one-quarter-inch stock. The top is of planed two-inch white pine.

Another secret of its lasting qualities is the absence of nails. Most parts are bolted, and the top is attached with three-inch wood screws in prebored holes. Note the points marked "a." These are critical and consist of a hinge joint made with five-eighths-inch bolts in precision-bored holes. The bolts are set up tightly, so that reasonable pressure is required to fold the bench for transportation. Despite the years, no looseness has developed.

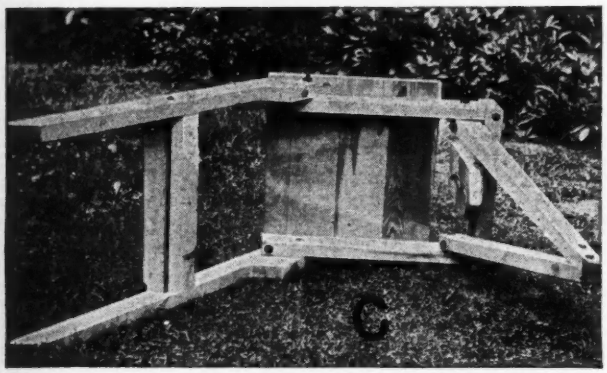
Photo A shows the rest set up in shooting position. The three-point support of the legs makes it rigid on any reasonable surface from turf to concrete.

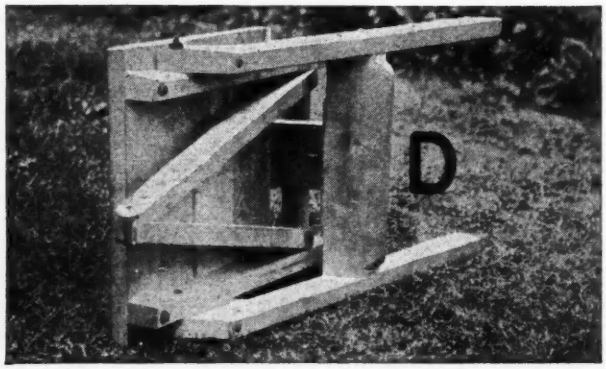
In Photo B, the seat is clearly shown. This should be positioned *after* the bench is otherwise complete. Set the bench on a level floor. Insert a box between the two rear legs and shim up the seat with boards to a comfortable level. Then attach it by three long screws on either side, reinforcing it by positioning a half-inch cold-rolled steel rod; see Photo C.

Photo C shows further details of the construction and the design of the folding parts. Note particularly the use of bolts at all points of strain to insure permanence.

Photo D illustrates the compact folding of the bench for easy transport. It enters the door of any sedan, and rests in the position indicated on the floor in back of the front seat.

One suggestion regarding use. In setting up on soft ground, first position it, then stand on the "seat" and jump up and down a few times to bed the legs firmly. The same operation should be repeated on the top to bed the front assembly. The bench should be built to stand this treatment, and the top can be constructed to meet your requirements. ◆ ◆ ◆





WAS THE "PRINCE OF PISTOLEERS" AS GOOD AS HIS LEGEND MAKES HIM OUT TO BE?

Wild Bill HICKOK

By E. B. MANN

"Stories of old-time gunfighters are apt to be highly colored and to vary with the square of the distance."

SO WROTE THE SOUTHWEST'S beloved Eugene Manlove Rhodes. No truer words were ever written! History regarding the old gun-fighting outlaws and lawmen is so mixed with legend, and legend is so confused by personal bias, exaggeration, and plain lying that it is difficult to sort the true from the false.

The story of Wild Bill Hickok's "battle" with "the notorious McCanles gang" at Rock Creek Station, Territory of Nebraska, is typical. You know the story. It has been told and retold until it has become a part of the American folklore—

How Wild Bill Hickok, that matchless, magnificent "Prince of Pistoleers," was trapped in a cabin and set upon by "the notorious McCanles gang"—(ten of them; ten desperate, bloodthirsty fiends!); how he shot one with a rifle, four (or was it five?) with his trusty Colt, and then, his guns empty, himself wounded near to death ("more than twenty wounds, each enough to kill an ordinary man"), drew his knife and closed body to body with his remaining foes, driving the bloody blade home and home again until every single fiend was dead!

Here it was, according to the legend, that Wild Bill got his name. "After my guns went empty," Hickok is quoted, "I went sort of wild. That's how come folks got to callin' me Wild Bill."

It's a wonderful story! It has been told many times as the finest example of single-handed courage against incredible odds. The only flaw in the story is—it isn't true!

There never was, outside of this legend, a "notorious McCanles gang." David Colbert McCanles was a simple settler, a farmer, who owned the land on which The Overland Stage Company (properly, The Central Overland California and Pike's Peak Express Company) chose to locate one of their stations on the old Oregon Trail. McCanles was a big man, rough in speech and in manner, something of a rough-and-tumble fighter (but no gunman); a good neighbor and an honest man in the opinion of his neighbors.

Hickok, then practically unknown, was an employee of The Overland Company, sent to Rock Creek Station as a stable hand. He wasn't Wild Bill then. Nobody, at that time, had ever called him "The Prince of Pistoleers." He hadn't yet acquired the heavy mustache or the flowing locks later to be so much admired. He was just plain Jim Hickok (his name was James Butler Hickok)—a tall, gangling, Roman-nosed young man with a manure fork, assistant to "Dock" Brink who was in charge of The Overland Company's stable.

It was Hickok's beaked nose which caused David McCanles to dub him "Duck Bill." That nose, McCanles said, reminded him of a duck's bill. And that is how a man named James came to be known as "Bill." Hickok resented the name, and no wonder. Other men around Rock Creek Station, less rude than McCanles, dropped the first part of the nickname and called Hickok simply "Bill." The "Bill" stuck. The "Wild Bill" came later, apparently a product of Hickok's own invention.

Hickok killed McCanles the afternoon of July 12, 1861. The killing took place at a cabin occupied by Horace G. Wellman and his common-law wife. Wellman was the keeper of the Rock Creek Station. "Dock" Brink, the stock tender, and "Bill" Hickok occupied a lean-to attached to the cabin. All four (Wellman, "Mrs." Wellman, Brink, and Hickok) were in the cabin when the killing occurred.

McCanles came to the cabin on a matter of business with Wellman. With McCanles were his nephew, Woods; his hired man, Gordon; and his son, Monroe, aged twelve. But Woods and Gordon stopped at the stable, some distance from the cabin, and McCanles came to the cabin accompanied only by the boy.

None of the McCanles group was armed. This, then, was the "desperate, bloodthirsty gang" of the legend.

There was ill feeling between Wellman and McCanles, and Wellman refused to come outside to talk to McCanles. McCanles threatened to "come in and drag him out." But before McCanles could make good his threat, Hickok, concealed behind a curtain that hung across one part of the cabin, fired one shot from a rifle. McCanles fell dead outside the cabin.

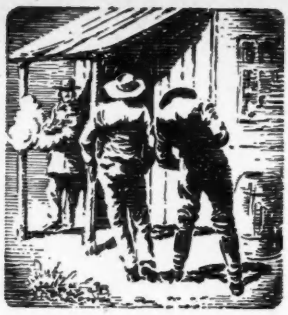
Woods and Gordon, hearing the shot, came running from the stable. Hickok, armed now with a Navy Colt revolver (probably the Colt Navy Model of 1851, although it could have been the Colt Navy Model 1861 which was made as early as 1860), stepped out of the cabin and fired once at Woods, once at Gordon, wounding both. Woods ran around back of the cabin before he fell. Gordon ran, bleeding, to the thickets along the nearby creek. Monroe McCanles, dazed and crying, knelt beside his father's body.

Horace Wellman came out of the cabin then, armed with a heavy hoe. He ran around back of the cabin, found Woods where he had fallen, and brought the hoe crashing down on Woods' head. Returning, Wellman struck with the hoe at Monroe McCanles, but the boy escaped him and ran.

Hickok, Wellman, and Brink then set a dog on Gordon's trail, found him lying, desperately wounded, beside a tree, and killed him with a blast from a shotgun.

Monroe McCanles escaped, told the story, and lived to a ripe and respected old age. But his story, and the testimony of the men and women living near Rock Creek Station who knew McCanles and who saw the evidence of the crime within hours of its occurrence, were lost and forgotten. Whereas the legend, lent wings by a magazine of national circulation and nourished by the growing fame of the man who, as a Scout, as a gun-fighting lawman, and as a showman was to become a national hero, flourished and took root.*

But not all of the Hickok saga is fiction. In some ways, the truth surpasses the legend. In the years immediately following the Rock Creek tragedy, Hickok, although he was not a soldier, distinguished himself as a Union Scout in the bloody Civil War campaigns around Springfield, Missouri, and personal research into military and civil records and into the memories of men who knew him then convinces me that no man ever



better deserved to be called a "one-man army." Hickok was a remarkable horseman, a dead shot with rifle or pistol, and his war record shows him a man completely devoid of fear, with a cold ruthlessness that made him the terror of enemy patrols and outposts.

But it is not for this that he is remembered. Wild Bill Hickok was great; let no man mistake it. Whether he was good or bad is a matter of opinion, but he was great.

He was a great peace officer. True, other men upheld the law in those towns and in others just as tough—and killed fewer men in the doing of it. But Hickok was a practical gunman, not a duelist; a man who walked constantly with the sincere belief that he was a target, that he had to kill or be killed, and who acted ruthlessly on that conviction. Perhaps he killed too often. Be that as it may, he got the job done.

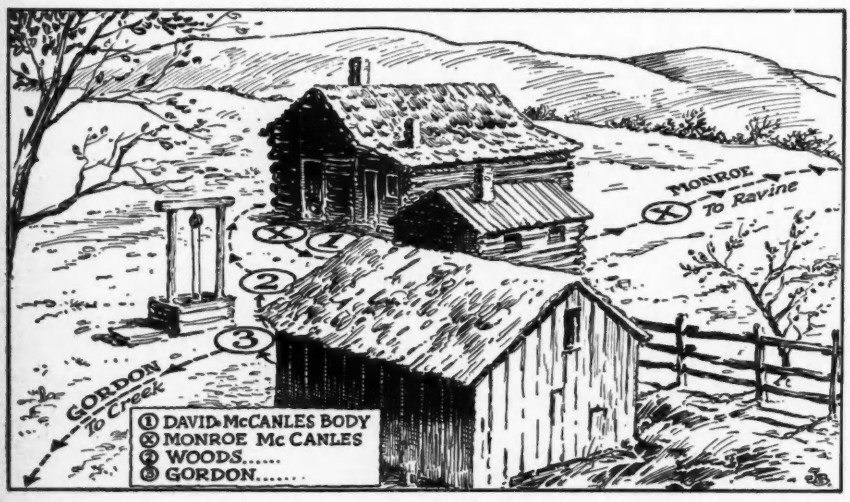
And he was probably the deadliest pistolman who ever lived.

Most men, even men with well-earned reputations as gunmen, are basically reluctant to kill. Most men, up to the last possible second, are seeking a way to avoid killing. Hickok was willing to kill. Being willing gave him a potent advantage—and he took it. Dead men never haunted him; live men might kill him. That was his policy, and it served him well. It served him until a man he would have scorned, a man not fit to stand in the same street with him as a gunman, a man he did not suspect, killed him.

It served him well enough to make his name a byword, a romantic symbol of the era in which he moved. Mention the old Western gunman today and the picture you conjure up is that of a tall man, broad of shoulder and narrow of beam, wearing two white-handled guns—a man with a wide mustache and flowing curls worn shoulder long: the picture of Wild Bill Hickok.

Was he a hero, *sans peur et sans reproche*, or a villain? How fast was he with a pistol? How accurate? What kinds of guns did he use, and how did he use them? How many men did he kill?

These are questions not easy to answer. Many men have tried, have written books in the effort. But there is something about Hickok, or about the Hickok legend, that makes it difficult to view the man impartially. You are his partisan or his enemy. Even such an experienced researcher as William E. Connelley, late Secretary



* All of the facts stated here as to the McCanles killing and the circumstances surrounding it, together with Monroe McCanles' statement and statements of witnesses who reached the scene immediately after the killings, as well as reproductions of the actual documents and court records of the trial of Hickok, Wellman, and Brink (at Beatrice, Nebraska) on charges of murder, can be found in Volume X, Number 2, of The Nebraska History Magazine, official publication of The Nebraska State Historical Society. This careful compilation of the facts in the case was published some sixty years after the tragedy; but the legend had, by that time, achieved proportions far beyond the power of a dry, meagerly circulated historical document to refute it.

of the Kansas State Historical Society, found himself incapable of separating fact from hero worship in his judgment of Hickok. Others have gone completely astray, ignoring fact entirely wherever it contradicted their own opinion. The best any man can do is to study all the evidence and accept what seems to him to be true.

As to his guns and his ability to use them, *Outdoor Life* for June, 1906, carried a statement by Robert A. Kane, then a well-known authority on firearms and their use, which is of interest. Kane met Hickok in Milwaukee in the '70's when Hickok was an actor in one of the Buffalo Bill Cody road companies. Kane had no possible ax to grind, was a shooter himself, and his report is in the language of an unbiased qualified observer:

"Mr. Hickok's weapons were a pair of beautifully silver-plated S.A. .44 Colt revolvers. Both had pearl handles and were tastefully engraved. He also had a pair of Remington revolvers of the same caliber . . .

"Standing on a railroad track in a deep cut, his pistols cracking with the regularity and cadence of an old house clock, he struck and dislodged the bleaching pebbles sticking in the face of the bank, at a distance of about fifteen yards.

"Standing about thirty feet from the shooter, one of our party tossed a quart can in the air to a height of about thirty feet. This was perforated three times before it touched the ground, twice with the right and once with the left hand.

"Standing midway between the fences of a country road, which is four rods wide, Mr. Hickok's instinct of location was so accurate that he placed a bullet in each of the fence posts on opposite sides. Both shots were fired simultaneously.

". . . his last feat was to me the most remarkable of all. A quart can was thrown by Mr. Hickok himself, which dropped ten or twelve yards distant. Quickly whipping out his weapons, he fired alternately with right and left. Advancing a step with each shot, his bullets striking the earth just under the can kept it in continuous motion until his pistols were empty."

There is nothing miraculous about this performance. Plenty of men then, and plenty of men living today, can do as well or better. Still, it is good shooting; good enough to account for any of the feats credited to Hickok by any creditable historian.

Wyatt Earp, himself a practicing lawman and gun fighter equal to the best, met Hickok in Kansas City in 1871 and was associated with him there in the company of such other exponents of gunplay as Jack Gallagher, Jack Martin, Billy Dixon, Jim Hanrahan, Tom O'Keefe, Cheyenne Jack, Billy Ogg, Bermuda Carlisle, "Old Man" Keeler, Kirk Jordan, and Andy Johnson. These men knew guns and they knew gunners. Among them, says Earp in "Wyatt Earp, Frontier Marshal":

". . . Bill Hickok was regarded as the deadliest pistol shot alive, as well as a man of great courage.

"Hickok knew all the fancy tricks and was as good as the best at that sort of gunplay, but when he had serious business at hand, a man to get, the acid test of marksmanship, I doubt if he employed them. At least, he told me that he did not.

"Hickok (had) a pair of ivory-handled six-guns which Senator Wilson had given him. . . . Bill's two favorite exhibitions of marksmanship (were), one, driving a cork through the neck of a bottle with a bullet; the other, splitting a bullet against the edge of a dime; both at about twenty paces.

". . . he held his guns as almost every man skilled in such matters preferred to hold one when in action, with a half-bent elbow that brought the gun slightly in front of his body at about, or slightly above, the level of the waist."

This testimony by Wyatt Earp contains several points of interest. Most important, it specifically states that Hickok and other gun fighters practiced with their guns!

But let's look briefly at two perfectly authenticated instances of Hickok's use of his pistol skill in actual kill-or-be-killed practice: First, the killing of Dave Tutt, in Springfield, Missouri, in 1865; and, second, the killing of Mike Williams, on Texas Street in Abilene, Kansas, in 1871.

Dave Tutt was a professional gambler, an ex-Confederate soldier, who may or may not have quarreled with Hickok over a woman. There was a girl named Susanna Moore who was Hickok's inamorata for a time, and later Tutt's; and there was Tutt's sister with whom it has been affirmed and denied that Hickok had an affair. But the immediate (or at least the avowed) cause of the quarrel which ended in Tutt's death was a watch—Hickok's watch which Tutt took in settlement of an alleged gambling debt. Hickok made no very vigorous attempt to recover the watch, but stated that if Tutt wore the watch "across the Square, (the Square being the central geographical feature of the City of Springfield, Missouri) I'll shoot you."

Tutt accepted the challenge and the two men met. Tutt fired first and missed. Hickok, with his Colt Dragoon already drawn but not aimed, then lifted his gun, rested it steadily across his left arm, and shot Tutt through the heart. The distance was seventy-five yards.

This shooting was, so far as I know, unique in Hickok's career. It was in the nature of a duel, fought at long range, dependent on accuracy and not on speed.

The killing of Mike Williams was different. Hickok was Marshal of Abilene at this period, and Mike Williams was his deputy and close friend. It was a typical wild night in Abilene and Wild Bill and Mike Williams were together in the Novelty Saloon when a shot was fired in the street outside. Hickok ordered Williams to "stay here; I'll go investigate." The shot, as it turned out, had been fired by a man named Phil Coe, a Texan and a professional gambler with whom Hickok had previously clashed.

There are two stories of this meeting between Hickok and Coe, one is the Texas version, the other is Hickok's. But there is no argument on one point: Hickok killed Coe.

Williams, hearing the exchange of shots between Hickok and Coe, left the Novelty and ran to the support of his fellow officer. Hickok, standing beside the dying Coe, heard those running steps behind him, whirled—fired—and killed Williams, his deputy and his friend.

To me, these two killings offer clues *(Continued on page 30)*

HOSEA SARBER, VETERAN HUNTER-AUTHOR OF THE NORTH COUNTRY, GIVES US THE INSIDE DOPE ON NORTH AMERICA'S LARGEST GAME . . .

The Alaska Brownie

NEARLY EVERY SPORTSMAN WHO INQUIRES about Alaskan big-game hunting has a brown bear at the top of his list. Where and when is the best place to hunt the brownie? What rifle should be used? Really, how big are they? How much will they weigh? How big are the pelts? How dangerous are they? These and many more are the questions uppermost in the gunner's mind.

There is more argument, nonsense, and exaggeration about the Alaskan brown bear than any other big-game animal we have in America, and he is the least understood. There are a legion of utterly fantastic tales woven about his character, and many boasting hunters and self-styled authorities have seen to it that these tales never grow smaller in the telling. As a result, the hunter who finds himself in the field hunting brownies for the first time will feel like a babe in the woods, and carry an advanced case of the jitters with him. Calm yourself, Hunter, and take your time. You will have no trouble collecting your trophy.

The question is often asked, "What is the difference between a brown bear and a grizzly bear? How can I tell one from the other?" You've got me there, Mister! The answer is that you can't, unless you know that you are hunting in a country where only one or the other is known to occur. It is impossible to tell them apart in the field, even if seen together—if indeed there is any difference in some sections. It is not possible to go into the details of their characteristics and habits here, but let me explain that there are species and subspecies that cannot positively be referred to either group, even with museum specimens for examination. They vary in color and characteristics from one section to another throughout their entire coastal ranges, though in their habits and traits they are all very much alike. They all belong to the grizzly family and vary into species and geographic races until these fish-eating brownies of the coastal area have, in some sections, simply become "super-grizzlies."

The largest of the great brown bears are found in Westward Alaska, on the Alaska Peninsula and the Kodiak-Afognak Island group. In these regions they attain their largest size, and there is little, if any, difference in the average size of the bears in those two localities. Yet, if I were to look for a record bear or for the largest proportion of big bears and good trophies, I would go to the Alaska Peninsula. But don't say I told you so, as that is a touchy question with a few old-timers who have their own "private" hunting grounds for "record" bears!

The best season to hunt these bluff bruisers is in the spring, during May and well into June, depending somewhat on the region hunted. They are also commonly hunted in some sections on the salmon streams in September and October, where they are concentrated along the streams and feeding on salmon.

Methods of hunting differ considerably from one region to another, depending on the nature of the country. The open tundra of the Alaska Peninsula and the semiopen country of Kodiak Island are far different from the jungle country of southeastern Alaska. Likewise, the bears differ in coloration, size, and other characteristics in these various regions. The brownie is an unpredictable cuss throughout, but that is what makes him so interesting to hunt. And he is one of the finest game animals and trophies that can fall to the sportsman's rifle.

Strange as it may seem, the jungle country of southeastern Alaska is the most accessible and easiest country to hunt of any section of the Territory. Here the sportsman can hunt from a comfortable cabin cruiser and be aboard his boat every night. Also, the bears are got with the least effort on the meadows and sedge patches that are their spring feeding grounds; or they may be taken along the salmon streams in the fall. But your trophies will be considerably smaller than the Westward bears.

In comparing sizes of the Westward bears with those of southeastern Alaska, the Peninsula and Kodiak bears will average a full foot larger each way in pelt dimensions if properly measured.

The only proper and uniform way to measure a green bear pelt is to lay it down on a smooth surface, *fur side down*, with the slack all stretched out, then let it relax with nothing holding it anywhere. Then with no further adjusting of the pelt, measure across the front legs from end of claw to claw, and from the end of the nose to the end of the tail.

How big are the biggest hides? Again fiction and exaggeration have blinded common sense. I know there are "records" of over thirteen and a half feet, but the steel tape tells a different story. I would wager that if measured correctly no twelve-foot pelt has ever been nor ever will be taken in Alaska! The very largest of the southeastern bears, though extremely rare indeed, will once in a blue moon go as much as ten feet, but the big old boars will average right at nine feet. Likewise an eleven-foot pelt from Westward Alaska is a near record. Such pelts are extremely rare. Old boars of that section that will go a full ten feet are splendid trophies.

One of the characteristics of the big brown bears is the difference in size between the adult males and the females. The largest males average in bulk and weight fully twice the size of the females. The very largest of the extreme giants among the males of the Westward bears may reach as much as 1,500 pounds, though it takes a very large and prime boar to weigh as much as 1,200 to 1,300 pounds. The females will not weigh more than half that much. I have never seen one that I thought would go over 600. The pelts of the adult females of the largest species average about eight feet in both dimensions. Again, I would wager that no nine-foot female pelt has ever been nor ever will be taken if properly measured!

Three large boars taken on Kodiak Island and actually weighed in the field, the pelts of which averaged right at ten feet, weighed in round figures an average of 1,000 pounds each. The largest weighed 1,063 pounds and the smallest went 925.

How dangerous is a brown bear? Are they really mean? Will they ever charge? Why put me on the spot like that!

In telling how dangerous the brownie is, a hunter who has perhaps shot one or two of these beasts and is eager to "thrill" his audience, will describe at great length and detail how the bear recklessly charged like an express train the instant it spotted the hunter. Though he accurately drove bullet after bullet from a heavy-caliber rifle fair into the chest of the onrushing bear as it bore down on him, it would not even flinch! In some manner, however, the bear is always stopped just in time. Nuts! It makes a good story, perhaps, but you asked about the danger!

After hunting and closely observing many hundreds of these bears over a period of some twenty-four years, I must admit that the only times I have been charged was because of provocation. In other words, it was my own fault. The charge could have been precluded had we not unduly molested the bear. We have taken thousands of feet of motion picture film of many scores of these bears at very close range—well under 100 feet. I have also shot or witnessed the shooting of scores of them under the same conditions in hunting them without having a charge. They do, however, under some conditions of provocation, charge the hunter. And when they do charge there is danger aplenty! When in brown or grizzly bear country, particularly when in cover, you must be careful, as you may not know when you may provoke a bear out of patience. The argument of where provocation begins and leaves off will never be settled. When you shoot a brownie anything can happen!

It is extremely rare, however, that one will actually charge without provocation that could not have been avoided. Indeed, it is rare that a wounded one will charge, but, Mister, when he does make a determined charge you better get into action!

There is always a keen kick in hunting brown bears and you never know what is going to happen next. Sometimes they are taken under the most unusual circumstances.

One day in September a California sportsman and I were hunting brownies on a salmon stream in a heavy jungle that came clear to the edge of the water. Jones had wondered and complained bitterly at attempting to get a shot in such cover. What he didn't know was that the jungle opened into heavy timber only a few yards from the stream bed.

He had hardly finished griping when we heard a brownie huffing and blowing as it climbed up the stream bank and entered the timber, disgruntled at being disturbed. I immediately "huffed and blowed" in answer, and we took off after the bear. As we came into the open timber I saw the bear stop in a thin patch of brush, champing its teeth and watching for us at about forty yards. We huffed and blew some more, and the old bear started toward us, confused and puzzled but mad. As it hesitated with its front paws on a low windfall, Jones shot it low in the chest with a .220 grain .30-'06 slug, and knocked it flat. We gave it another shot for luck, then some careful prodding. I never saw a man so happy. That night aboard the hunting yacht—and between pulls on the bottle he had in his hand—Jones told me, "I thought you were nuts when we took off after that bear, and I felt like a babe in the woods!" And I heard him tell his com-

rades, "The only way I could have been more scared was to be bigger!"

Are they hard to kill? Now, why bring that up!

One point the tall-tale spinners have always overlooked and that explodes most of the "thrilling" yarns of charging bears is the fact that a bear is far easier to kill with a frontal shot than from any other position. And for a bear to be dangerous he must have his vital front end toward you and he must be close, where he gets the full benefit of all the power of the load—provided, of course, he is hit! For some reason when a bear gets hit fair and solid in the chest or front end from a front angle with a rifle of ample power and proper bullet he is knocked flat, and chances are he won't get up again. I have seen a great many of them hit thusly with the .30-'06 and like calibers, some of which were bent on destroying their tormentors, and in every case if they were hit solidly they were knocked down. Usually they do not get up again from such a shot. But if one does get up or if he indicates he might, hit him again and again—if you can control the shakes! You won't ruin the trophy.

The old story that bullets from high-power rifles will glance off a brownie's head is so much drizzle. They will no more glance off a bear's head than they will from any other animal of comparative size. And there is no one bone in the largest of brownie skulls that the common .22 rim fire will not penetrate! Such tales belong with the myths that they charge on their hind feet or that they always raise to their hind legs just before or during the final attack; and that they catch their fish by knocking, striking, scooping, or tossing them from the stream to the banks with their front paws. The answer is, they don't!

What rifle should I use? Will my old favorite .30-'06 be all right, or should I buy a new magnum for my brown bear hunt? Both the .300 and the .375 Magnums are splendid rifles for brownies, and I doubt that there is a better commercial cartridge made for the purpose than the .375, *provided you can handle it*. The fact remains, however, that the .30-'06 is still ample for the largest bears if you use the heavier bullets of proper construction for heavy game. And you will do far better work with your old favorite rifle of .30-'06 or similar power that you are familiar with and know you can handle properly than if you change to a spanking new and strange magnum. Beware of the one-gun man; he can probably use it. Rifles of the .30-30 class are entirely too light. For brown bears I would recommend nothing lighter than the .30-'06 caliber or one of equal power, all with proper bullets.

For years I used the .30-'06 with both special handloads and some makes of factory ammunition with perfect satisfaction. I have used or seen used with success many other rifles of similar power. My cabinet also contains a .375 Magnum and I have used a number of wildcats, but I have never felt the need for such calibers in brown bear hunting. Andy Simons, the famous old Kenai guide who has hunted and guided for over thirty-five years, used a .280 Ross for years with perfect satisfaction, and he swears by both that caliber and the .30-'06.

If you are planning a bear hunting trip to Alaska you should first, months in advance, get in touch with the Alaska Game Commission in Juneau, Alaska, and ask for whatever information you may wish and for a list of the registered guides and hunting districts. You should make all arrangements as to the hunt, guides, and region to be hunted before leaving your home. Then when you arrive in the Territory you can direct all your attention and time to the actual hunt in the field. Give your guide plenty of time to arrange the hunt, and allow ample time in the field. You many find it necessary, as often happens, to look over or examine a number of bears before selecting your trophy. Don't expect to haul off and shoot the first bear you see, as many of them naturally are immature bears of small size, or the pelage may be rubbed or shed off and damaged.

When you and your guide have decided it is a trophy you want you will make your final stalk. Then when taking a shot, take your time! Get as close as you can and then get yourself into a shooting position so you know you can land your bullet properly. No matter what rifle is used you must place your bullet right to anchor your bear on the spot. A shot in the guts will not anchor him no matter what rifle is used.

The only man who can tell you how to kill your bear or where to hit him is the guide at your side. Even pictures showing how it should be done are of no value. But it is well to remember that you must hit him solidly *in the front end*. If he is facing or quartering toward you when you shoot, so much the better. That is the best position of all and really presents a target for a deadly shot.

It's a grand sport! As you shake the hand of your guide at the end of your brownie hunt you will already be making plans for your next trip—to get the big one that got away! ◆ ◆ ◆

Small Bore's Mr. Big

(Continued from page 9)

"Position is pretty important when you're standing up to shoot," he'll tell you. "You've got to move your body around till it's just right. I like to keep my head high, my elbow low, and my feet fairly close together. I try to hold on the target—not snap shoot—and I think the low elbow helps the hold. And I don't try to hold on the ten-ring, either. All I try to do is keep my cross hairs inside the nine-ring because everything inside the nine gives you a ten."

All in all, the new small-bore champ is a fairly orthodox sort of shooter. You can't blame his climb to the top on any trade secrets, or trick techniques. His secret, if there is one, is simply hard work and intelligent application of those same old principles of good shooting . . . the ones everybody else learns. Probably the difference is Wayne's devotion to his chosen sport, and the fact that he is willing to work harder at it than most of us. That's why he's championship material.

At the moment, the versatile Wayne is the only competing member of the famly. His attractive, dark-haired wife, Mary, isn't interested. But there still are hopes for the rest of the family. The three Moore children, Dave (fourteen), Gary (ten), and Richard (eight), all do considerable field shooting . . . Dave, in fact, got his first buck last fall.

But Wayne isn't ready to turn things over to them yet. He's still got a National Championship to defend and besides . . . he'd like to win that Pennsylvania State Championship just once. He's been runner-up four times, which shows you what he means about shooting against the hot-shots . . . even on his own home field. ◆ ◆ ◆

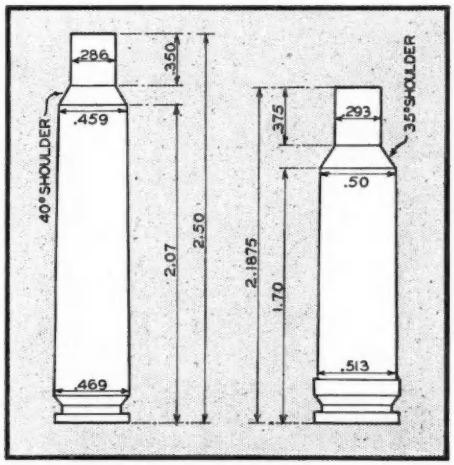
.25 Magnum Cartridges

By AL BARR

FOR VARMINT SHOOTING, especially in the eastern states, the most popular calibers by far are the center-fire .22's, including the commercial and wildcat varieties. One reason at least is the use of bullets driven at quite high velocity, which insure a safe combination for shooting near settled parts of the country. Out in the wide-open spaces, however, where ranges are long and weather conditions have considerable effect on light bullets, shooters are apt to prefer a caliber larger than the .22. For varmint shooting, the .25 and larger calibers are desirable, because their heavier bullets are less affected by wind. Even in other areas one can readily note the effect of wind on light bullets.

The one difficulty, though, seems to lie in getting satisfactory small groups when driving these heavier .25 caliber bullets at fairly high velocities. With plenty of data at hand on the various cartridges of .25 and larger caliber, there seemed to be a wide gap between maximum powder capacity and practical loadings in the standard commercial and magnum cases. Having experienced excellent performance with small-capacity .22 cases like the .22-30 or shortened .220 Swift case and the shortened .219 Zipper (called the .219 Donaldson Wasp), we schemed up what might have been "just another wildcat." Fortunately, though, it does seem to be an outstanding cartridge. It is a .25 caliber case based on a shortened .275 or .300 H. & H. Belted Magnum case. Back of that selection is the fact that we did not like the large capacity of most existing magnums in .25 caliber, where the case capacity is nearly fifteen grains over the average working load.

Most of the .25 magnums hold 74 or more grains of powder, and an accurate charge with 100 grain bullets is around 63 to 65 grains of du Pont 4350 powder. There was of course, the .30-'06 case resized to .25 caliber, which is an easy reforming job, but from all indications, the velocity with *accurate* loads was not all the makers claimed for it. Everything considered, and wanting to use the Belted Magnum case especially in a Bull Pup rifle, we asked P. O. Ackley to make up our own version, and have not been sorry for the choice.

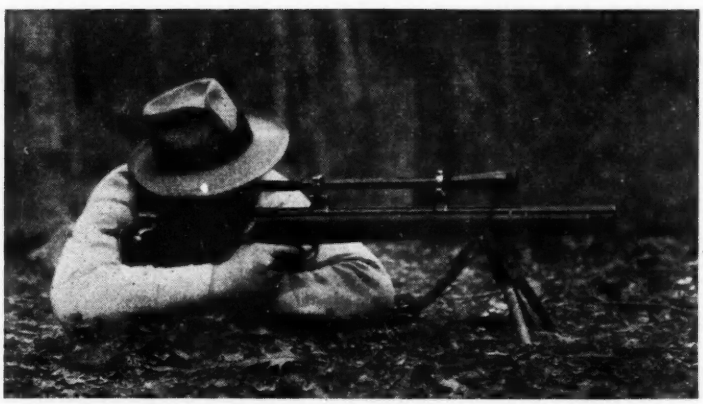


The .25-'06 Ackley Magnum case (left) and the .25 Short Magnum case (right) developed by Al Barr

Our .25 Short Magnum case (2.1875 inches) was designed to hold at least 62 grains of 4350, and the final outcome was a maximum of 62.5 grains, level full. As much as 59 grains have been used safely with 100 grain bullets. The most accurate load, and one that really shoots, is 56 grains of No. 4350 with 100 grain bullets. Unusual is the fact that this load is only 6.5 grains under maximum capacity, while in the .25-'06 Ackley Magnum, based on the .30-'06 case, the average working load with 100 grain bullets is 52 grains of the same powder, yet that case holds fully 66 grains level full. Even 52 grains in the .25-'06 will frequently cause punctured primers, indicating a heavy load.

Ackley made two rifles for us—one chambered for our .25 Short Magnum, and one for the .25-'06. Both rifles are equipped with heavy barrels—1¼ inches tapered to ⅞ inch, and 26 inches long. They are rifled one turn in 12 inches and both are just .257 inch for groove diameter. Unusual also, in the rifle chambered for the Short Magnum, is the fact that the reformed cases have been fired at least nine times without full-length resizing and there is not the slightest indication of extraction trouble. By comparison, the .25-'06 cases must be sized full length every time they are reloaded, otherwise extraction difficulty is noticeable, even though the .25 Short Magnum has less neck tolerance for the fired cartridge case. It is only .0015 inch, meaning a close chambering job.

Both of our guns prefer 100 grain bullets to any of the lighter weights. The .25 Magnum will consistently group in one minute to a maximum of 1½ minutes up to 400 yards, using 100 grain Barnes or Weatherby bullets. The last seven shots fired at 200 yards grouped in 1.68 inches; other groups of five shots at the same range have been in less than two inches.



This 26-inch long bullpup, with its heavy barrel of 1¼ inches tapered to ⅞ inch, was chambered for the .25 Short Magnum by P. O. Ackley

For some unknown reason the equally heavy barreled .25-'06 will give, on an average, no less than 1½-inch groups at 100 yards or 3- to 4-inch groups at 200 yards. It may be that we have an exceptionally fine rifle in the .25 Magnum Bull Pup, but the difference in the two rifles is what we found anyway. The very best loads for the .25-'06 were the 100 grain Barnes and 52.0 grains of 4350, which grouped in 2.24 inches at 200 yards, and 48.0 grains of 4895, giving 2.02 inches at the same range. These are the very best groups. The .25 Pup will do better than that any day. Time will tell, though, whether other rifles in the same calibers will show the same differences in performance for the two cartridges.

One main drawback to the .25 Short Magnum is that the .300 H. & H. cases must be shortened from about 2.85 to 2.1875 inches and then reformed in at least two different forming dies. In this rifle, at least, the extra work is well worth the effort, as the performance is more than we ever expected. The shortened cases have not been neck annealed and only two have been lost from cracked necks. Possibly this is because of the close chambering job.

There is an apparent difference, too, in erosion between these two barrels, although we have no way of learning definitely if the same kind of steel was used in both barrels. Both were made by Ackley though. We know also that no two barrels, even in the same caliber, will give the same barrel life or add up to a conclusive test. However, here are the facts, for what they are worth:

The .25 Magnum was fired 640 rounds before there was any noticeable blackening in the throat of the barrel, just forward of the chamber. Now, after 780 rounds, the erosion appears to be ½ inch long. The other barrel in .25-'06 caliber shows very slight erosion and barrel wear after 240 rounds or by comparison, a difference of 400 rounds. The .25 Short Magnum is actually more accurate now than when the barrel was new, and we hope the .25-'06 will improve equally as much with more use.

After shooting the two rifles at various ranges we have a very good picture of performance. For a comparison though, it must be remembered that the scope line to center of bore for the .25-'06 is 1.62 inches, and for the high-mounted scope on the Bull Pup the difference is 2.14 inches. This should, other things being equal, indicate a more favorable trajectory for the Pup, and it does.

With the heaviest practical load in the .25-'06, which is 52.5 grains of du Pont No. 4350 and the 100 grain Remington Core-Lokt bullet, the following impacts were observed: one inch above aim at 100 yards, 0.88 inch below at 200, 8.20 inches below at 300, and 18.80 inches below at 400 yards. With the 90 grain Barnes bullet and a maximum load of 53.5 grains of the same powder the impacts were: one inch above, .80 inch below, 4.30 inches below, and 28.80 inches below aim at the four respective ranges. It will be noted that the blunt-nose, Core-Lokt bullet did not carry up as well as the more pointed 90 grain Barnes.

Several tests proved almost conclusively that with the pointed 100 grain Barnes bullet and 56.0 grains of No. 4350 in the .25 Short Magnum case the impacts will be as follows: one inch above, 0.80 inch above, 2.60 inches below, and 15.00 inches below aim at the four ranges. With the 90 grain Barnes bullet and 51.0 grains No. 4064 the indicated trajectory is: one inch above, .15 inch above, three inches below, and 13.75 inches below aim. These are very encouraging drop figures for 90 to 100 grain bullets.

In similar tests where we wanted to know where the bullet was going, one of the flattest-shooting loads was the .220 Swift. The handload was made up by J. B. Smith, and consisted of the 50 grain 8-S bullet and 39.8 grains du Pont No. 4064. The impacts were: one inch above, .45 inch above, 2.95 inches below, and 13.25 inches below aim. Undoubtedly, the .25 caliber bullets start out at lower velocity, probably around 3500 to 3600 feet per second, but these heavier bullets carry up well, which offsets some of the high muzzle velocity and very appreciable wind drift as noted for the .22 caliber.

The .25 Short Magnum is capable of making consistent hits on chucks up to at least 400 yards. One convincing demonstration was four consecutive hits at approximately 350 to 475 yards, by two different shooters. To get good accuracy, though, good tough-jacketed bullets must be used, and the explosive effect with these is not always as impressive as will be the performance of the .22 Varminter or .220 Swift. I have seen my shooting pal, Powley, make many an impressive long-range hit using handloads in the standard .257 Roberts cartridge. Those sure kills by an experienced shooter at the longer ranges are quite something to watch, and the .25 caliber seems to do a good job of it.

Observing bullet performance at 300 to 400 yards on chucks and crows for at least eight years has led me to believe that in the .22 caliber the best performer in the Swift or Varminter was the 60 grain 8-S bullet. The lighter 50 grain does not seem as dependable in the same rifles beyond 300 yards, unless absolute center hits are made. For me at least, I have found the answer in the .25 Short Magnum. It is a strict wildcat though, and should not be considered by anyone who is unwilling to go to a lot of trouble to make cases or to reload all his ammunition.

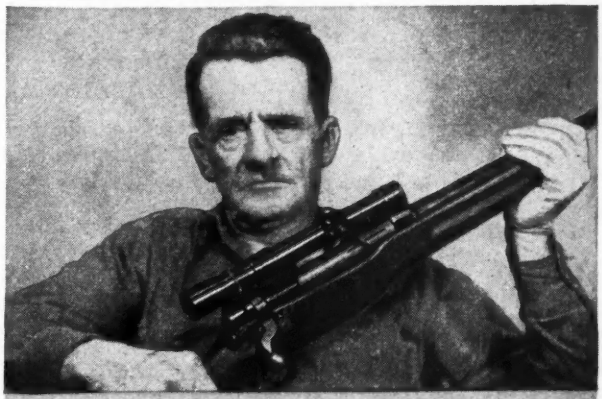
We have no exact velocity figures on these cartridges except what P. O. Ackley has furnished on the .25-'06. He indicates a maximum of 55 grains HiVel No. 2 with the 90 grain Barnes as giving 3925 foot-seconds velocity. We found though, that 49 grains was too much for the 87 grain Remington open point, as the bullets would not reach the 100-yard target. He also indicates a maximum of 52 grains HiVel No. 2 with 100 grain bullets at 3661 foot-seconds and 55 grains No. 4350 with the same bullet weight giving 3532 foot-seconds velocity. The maximum listed with the 117 grain bullet is 54 grains No. 4350 giving 3366 foot-seconds. But note that our *safe* loads in the one rifle were three grains or more under the loads listed by Ackley.

A number of the well-known gunsmiths have their own version of the .30-'06 case necked down to .25 caliber. Eventually we should get more accurate safe-loading data for these cartridges, along with velocity figures. Only then will we know whether the reformed .30-'06 case holds too much powder to be as practical in .25 caliber as the shorter cases holding less powder.

Undoubtedly, somewhat higher velocity can be obtained in the longer, greater capacity .25 magnum cases, but it seems the extra velocity is obtained at an out-of-proportion increase in barrel wear. What we need is better barrel steel and particularly better bullets for good accuracy at these high velocities. ● ● ●

"THE EARS HAVE IT"

By REX STANLEY



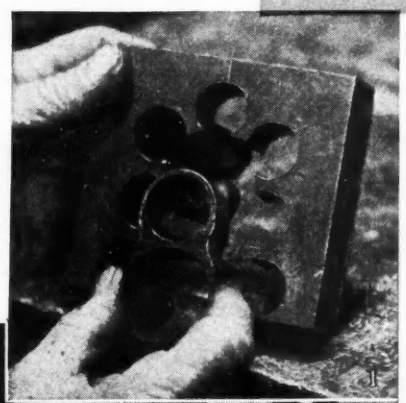
INSTEAD OF TRIMMING 'EM OFF, AN ARIZONA GUNSMITH DECIDES TO SEE WHAT HE CAN DO WITH THOSE "EARS" ON THE ENFIELD

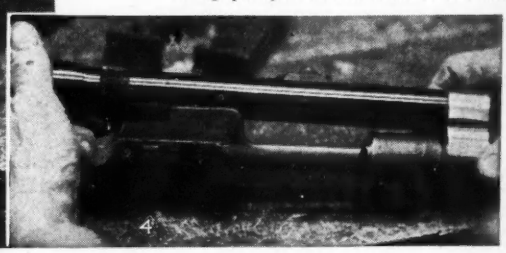
IT'S OLD STUFF IN THE history of American firearms for a rifle born to the battlefield to be adopted by hunters and targetmen and win its second spurs in the sporting field. But the Enfield .30-'06—U. S. Army Rifle M1917—promises to outrank all others in peace-use popularity. Via the Director of Civilian Marksmanship, thousands of Enfields have passed from military arsenals to sportsmen.

The Enfield's rugged construction, popular caliber, low price, and wide range of remodeling possibilities have made it a favorite with shooters everywhere, from big-game men to gun cranks. A solid, uncluttered receiver and a side-safety bolt action make it a natural for mounting telescope sights.

Today, regular redesigning of an Enfield for a scope usually includes removal of the "ears" or elliptical stubs that project upward from the rear of the receiver, on both sides of the military leaf sight. R. S. Bowen, gunsmith of Prescott, Arizona, long felt that the deep, inch-wide channel between those ears was an ideal bed for a telescope, and the jutting stubs would provide plenty of protection. As he put it—"without meaning to, the original designer of the Enfield tailored it to take a scope. Knock off those ears, and you lose a made-to-order mounting location!"

That's fight talk among Arizona gunners. You've got to punch the ten-ring of proof when you trigger a statement like that in the West, particularly when your friends are happy remaking 'em the old way. To back up his contention, Bowen was asked to turn out a scope mount that actually utilized the Enfield's ears. He did.



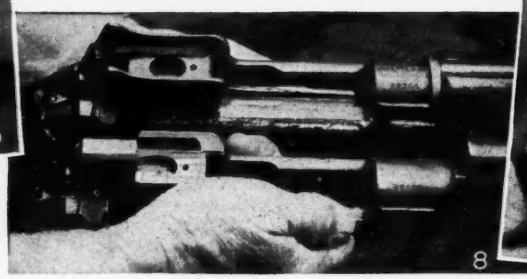


The mounting described takes true advantage of the ready-made telescope projection between those stubs. The rear mount is anchored there. And only two changes are made in the receiver—reshaping the ears and the channel between them, and drilling one hole.

These mounts, front and back, are husky enough to stand up under the hardest hunting abuse, yet refined to the exacting requirements of target-range work. Two easy operations release the scope, but it's locked like Gibraltar when in use. The scope shown is the Weaver K 2.5 but by a simple modification in the plans (changing the mounting-hole diameters) almost any telescope on the market today can be tightly hitched to an Enfield, using these mounts.

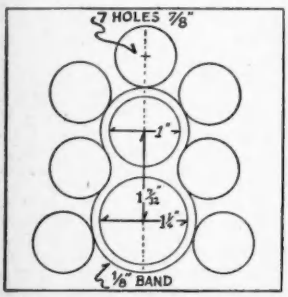
Best of all, Bowen's mounts can be "manu-

Photographs by C. C. Niehuis and L. E. Eslow



factured" in a home workshop. All work, except drilling the outline of the front mount, a small welding job, and lathe-turning the rear ring, can be done with hand tools. The design is smooth, attractive, simple. The materials shouldn't make a dent in the most modest pocketbook.

The front mount is the dependable figure-eight ring—one hole for the rifle barrel, the other for the scope. It is laid out on an inch-thick slab of cold-rolled steel, four inches square (Figure 1). All holes are made with a drill press and the connecting segments are cut through with a hack saw. This releases the rough eight-ring, and the ugly knuckles around it are ground down on a wheel. Enough material is left around the outline for final shaping by hand files and cloth abrasives.



Be sure to retain the center mark between the scope ring and barrel ring—it's mighty important!

The barrel hole is shaped with a tapered mandrel. This mandrel should match the barrel taper from the small end of the taper to within a quarter inch of the receiver ring. The barrel hole of the mount is heated red hot, and the mandrel driven in (Figure 2). After the taper has been formed, the cold mount should slip down the barrel taper to within a quarter inch of the receiver ring (Figure 3).

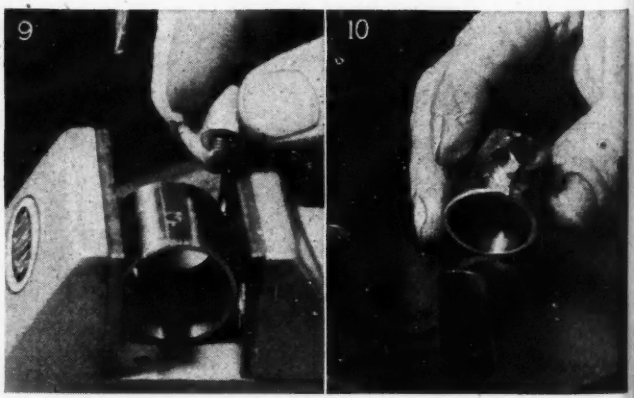
Before going further, an exact, over-the-bore center on the receiver ring must be found. This will be the alignment for joining the front mount to the barrel. Remove the leaf sight and spring. Reinsert the spring screw about halfway, and tie a yard of thin, strong wire to it. Stretch the wire up the barrel and fasten it securely to the front sight in a long, tight loop. If care is taken to center this wire from the screw to the front sight, it will pass over the receiver ring at a workable, over-the-bore center.

After this mark is made, the barrel hole of the mount is again heated red hot. The mount is quickly slipped onto the barrel and forced down until it's seated tightly against the receiver ring; guide it carefully so that the center mark on the receiver lines up exactly with the mark on the mount. A word of caution: Prepare to do this job so that both marks will align correctly at the instant the mount is forced on the barrel taper. The mount will cool very rapidly, and once cold it'll grip the barrel.

When the front mount is seated and cooled, it's ready for final shaping, smoothing, and polishing. Or, this work can be postponed until both mounts are finished. Before trying your scope in the front mount, it may be necessary to smooth out the hole. Do this only enough to get a snug, unsloppy, slip fit. With the K 2.5, a one-inch hand reamer was followed with very light polishing.

The rear mount ring is turned out on a machine lathe. Its dimensions are shown in the drawings. Again, the inside diameter should be a tight, slip fit for the scope tube. When the ring has been turned out, a one-eighth-inch hole is drilled into one side, nine-sixteenths inch from one end (Figure 9). Drill this hole carefully to face directly into the axis of the ring. The hole is tapped 8-32 and used to position and hold the mounting lug while it is being welded to the ring.

The lug shown (Figure 9) was turned out on a lathe, but any piece of half-inch steel rod, dropping in a straight shoulder to a nib an eighth inch in diameter, can be successfully adapted to the rear mount. The nib should be about a quarter inch



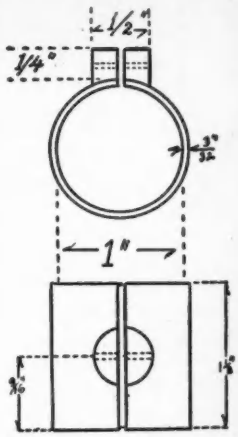
long, and is threaded to screw into the hole in the ring. A gap is left between the ring and the shoulder of the lug so that welding steel can flow in and make a solid union of the two. To allow for finishing, the lug is cut off about one-sixteenth inch longer than the dimension shown in the drawings.

After the lug has been welded to the rear-mount ring, a careful hack saw cut is made, exactly dividing the lug and one side of the ring, as shown in Figure 10. The rear mount is now a circular clamp, ready to get a firm grip on the scope. It's complete except for small changes in the lug, necessary to final seating between the receiver ears. If you decide to clean up the rear mount, take it easy on the scope hole!

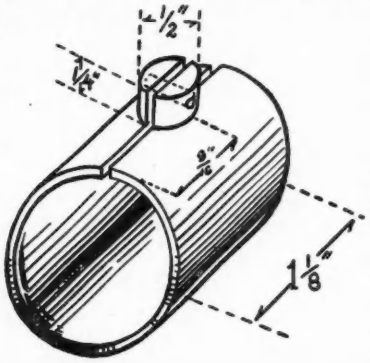
Next come the alterations of the ears (Figures 5 and 8) and the channel they form. The receiver is first cut according to the dotted lines in the drawing of the action, trimming off a portion of the ears and cutting out the back side of the large cavity in the receiver bridge. These surfaces are then trued up by filing. It may be necessary to reshape the slot into the receiver-bridge cavity, to fit the rear-mount lug. This lug should fit snugly into the forward half round of the cavity, with the rear surface of the mounting ring flush to the rear ends of the altered ears.

A word of caution: Some Enfields lack the ready-made cavity under the sight for that lug to fit into. You may have to drill it yourself!

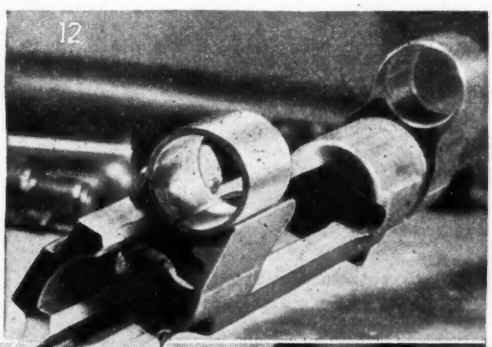
Final dimensions of the next operation are, in a sense, up to the shooter. It consists of filing down the slope angle of each ear (Figure 6) until the mount is seated. Since the elevation of this rear mount will determine at what range the scope line of sight first crosses the bullet trajectory, it's sorta up to the guy who owns the rifle. Bowen's rear mount is so seated that the Weaver K 2.5 first cuts the trajectory at twenty-five yards. This puts the second crossing at about 200 yards; thus, when his Enfield was finally sighted in, only a small change in cross-hair elevation was necessary to make it shoot about three inches high at 100 yards and "right on" at 200, using the 180 grain bullet.

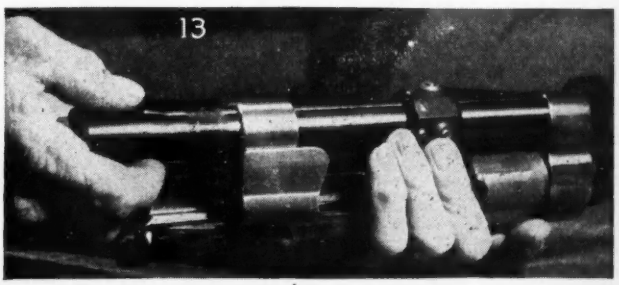


For the fellow who wants his scope sighted at a lesser range, file down the ear slopes until bore and scope lines first intersect farther out. If you want more range, make the first crossing closer in. It might be well to point out that the rear elevation of the scope also can be varied by the thickness of the rear-mount ring.



Whatever range you choose, be sure to check your progress as you file. Slip the rear mount on the scope, and the scope into the front mount. Add a C-clamp to hold the rear mount lug firmly into the receiver-bridge cavity, and most important—to hold the surfaces of the rear-mount ring hard against the inside slope of each ear. Level the rifle to true horizontal and bore sight on a cross target, also leveled. When the scope and the bore intersect at the right range for the sighting picture you want, the filing is finished.





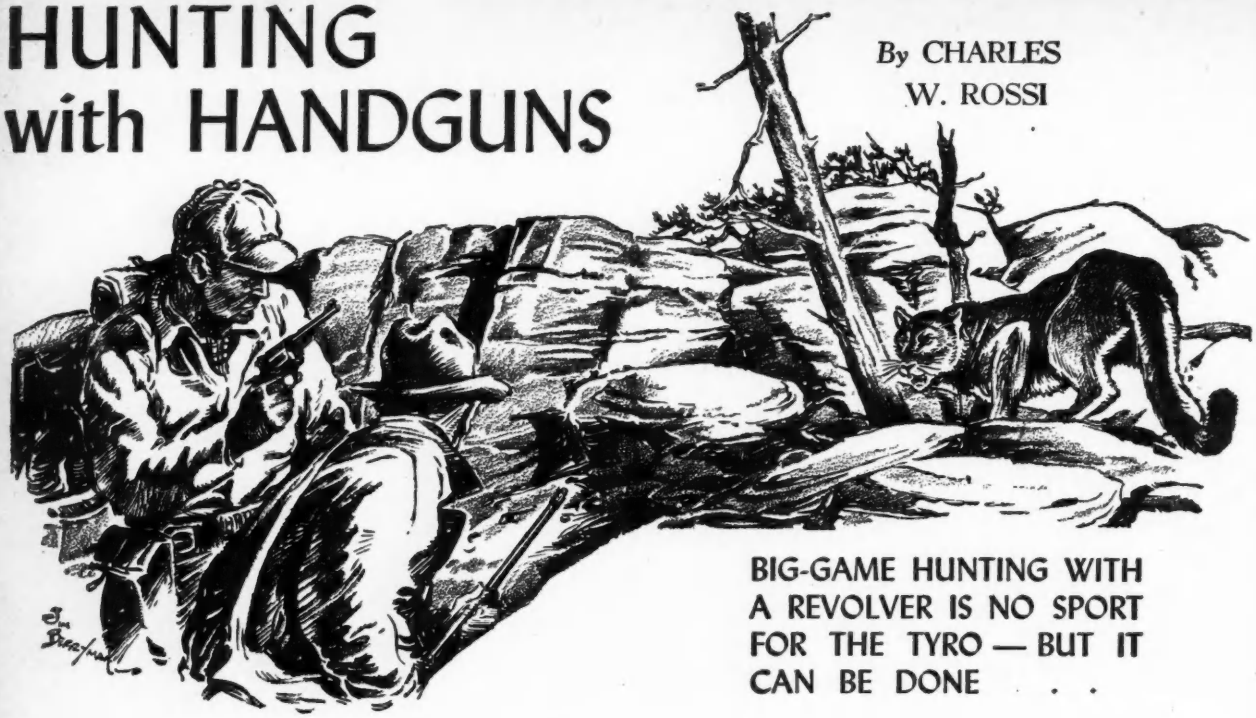
A word about filing: One of the outstanding features of Bowen's rear mount is the use of the receiver ears to form a V-block (Figure 7). The V-block is an unfailing way to seat and center any circle. The circle of the rear-mount ring is seated in the V-block between the ears. The rear mount remains centered over the receiver and tight against the ear slopes, as long as both ears are filed down the same amount, at the same pitch. File slowly, and keep the cut and pitch of both sides always equal and true.

The best way to keep a flat, regular slope while filing is to follow the pitch already built into the forward portions of the ears. To seat finally the rear-mount lug, it will be necessary to file metal from the bottom of it. It may be necessary to remove metal from the floor of the channel between the ears, as the rear mount is lowered.

(Continued on page 38)

HUNTING with HANDGUNS

By CHARLES W. ROSSI



BIG-GAME HUNTING WITH A REVOLVER IS NO SPORT FOR THE TYRO — BUT IT CAN BE DONE . .

PERHAPS IT WAS LAZINESS that engendered my interest in the possibilities of hunting with a pistol. I'm just indisposed to overwork when it can be avoided. Anyhow, I had an ambition to pursue my favorite sport without carrying a heavy rifle through the brush country where shots at deer are seldom possible at more than sixty yards and where a day's hunt always means a ten-mile hike at the least.

When I got the idea, I knew nothing of pistol shooting, but I purchased a .22 caliber Woodsman and a .38 caliber Colt Officers' Model and began with these two, plus a firm determination to learn to hunt with a pistol. Soon I was shooting in matches, and before I realized it the pistol "bug" had bitten me. I settled down to a routine that was to extend through two years of living and sleeping pistol shooting. During this time, I shot between 40,000 and 50,000 rounds with the hand iron. Needless to say, my wife finally reached the point where her only comment was, "You and your damned pistols!" But in spite of some acid remarks, I'm convinced there is no better sport than shooting with a pistol, and certainly none that enables one more absolutely to become master over the nervous system.

But let's get back to hunting with the pistol. After persistent practice over this two-year period, I felt ready to discard the rifle in favor of a .357 Magnum S&W revolver, 6½-inch barrel. I had learned, for one thing, that selecting the proper barrel length is of major importance. I made thorough tests with the 7½-inch and 6½-inch Magnum revolver, and found the 7½-inch length considerably more powerful, penetrating one inch more of pine wood. However, the 7½-inch barrel proved a little too heavy for me for accurate shooting. So, I had to sacrifice power for accuracy, adopting the 6½-inch barrel for my particular use. Of course, if a person can handle the longer barrel as well or better, he should by all means use it.

Then, I determined upon a hunting code which resulted in the following convictions: I was never, at any time, to shoot a running deer, regardless of its closeness. I was to take time in squeezing my shots, just as if I were shooting at a paper target. I was to bear in mind that if the live target was willing to wait for me, well and good, and that if it would not wait that would be all right with me. I'd just wait for another target.

Then, to select proper sights. After thoroughly testing practically every sight in the King Gunsight Company's catalogue, I found the bead front sight and the U-notch rear sight to be the very worst to use with a handgun. The black, undercut square post (Patridge) one-eighth-inch front sight and the square-notch rear sight proved by far the best for hunting as well as target shooting. Last, and most important, grips came into consideration. Proper-fitting grips are the most important accessory to good pistol shooting. Custom-made grips which are fitted to the hand in every detail are as essential to better pistol shooting as proper shoes are to better walking. The illustrations show what I arrived at in order to fit my own hand.

Now, I know you'll be wondering just what type of practice is needed to hunt deer successfully with a pistol. For my practice target, at least a month before hunting season begins, I use a steel disc twelve inches in diameter at a distance of 100 yards. My own qualifications to hunt out in the field are that I can hit this target seven times out of ten *with consistency*. You may think that's a pretty big order, but believe me it's well worth the effort. Next, being able to estimate distance plays an important part in accurate handgun shooting at long ranges. I sight my gun in at fifty yards with the six o'clock hold on the fifty-yard NRA target. That means that I can hold dead on for shots from seventy to 100 yards.

As to handloads, I've tried several, including the maximum

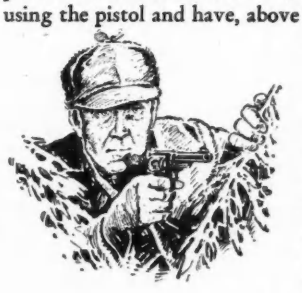
recommended by well-known experts. My conclusion that none equals the factory-loaded 158 grain Western Lubaloy bullet for killing power was reached by the following procedure in making tests: I used quart-sized oil cans filled with water. The results with a handload were very disappointing, bulging the cans and occasionally splitting one open. On the other hand, the factory load simply exploded the cans. Whether or not this is a good test for killing power, I can't say; nevertheless, you'll find it a fair test for explosive effect.

Thus armed with my 6½-inch-barrel Magnum, I went in search of deer through the south Texas mesquite, the meanest brush country in the land. Where I had no chance for a deliberate shot, I'd try to trail the deer down. My experience with deer in that heavy brush country had taught me that they never run for more than 100 or 200 yards after being flushed. Consequently, on many occasions, I've killed deer after flushing them and permitting them to escape before the first shot. I'm sure many hunters have found that an old buck will prove too smart and can't be trailed. The best thing to do then is to abandon that particular one—and look for another. Never forget the *good* hunter's slogan: "Thou shalt not shoot in haste!"

Now, for the sixty-four dollar question: Is the .357 Magnum handgun powerful enough to kill deer with consistency? My experience has proved a definite YES—in the hands of one who is able to shoot ninety or better on an NRA pistol target at fifty yards. Let me repeat that this statement is based entirely on experience and not on theory and ballistics.

Close-ups of the author's favorite deer killer. Custom grips on the 6½-inch barreled .357 make a fine big-game getter, if you know how to use it!

With this pocket rifle I've killed twenty-eight out of twenty-nine deer shot at, including mule deer, since 1940. Only one escaped and the fault that time was mine, not the gun's. The simple explanation is that I rattled the buck while crouched in a thicket and made a bad shot as a result. Nevertheless, twenty-eight out of twenty-nine is a good percentage of deer recovered. To further praise the pistol, I have hunted since 1918 and have killed a good many deer and other big game. In fact, using high-powered rifles, I've killed every species of big game on the North American continent with the exception of the Kodiak bear, but I have yet to equal my record of kills recovered with the pistol. This, however, does not necessarily prove that the pistol is a better killer. I simply have learned more about using the pistol and have, above all, used it only within its capabilities.



Let me give you some examples of the devastating effect of the .357 Western 158 grain bullet on game. A few years ago I was hunting with the famous guide and lion hunter, Jack Butler, in Kaibab National Forest in Arizona. Jack pointed out to me a mule deer lying under a juniper tree about fifty or sixty yards out, facing away from us. Using the Western bullet, I fired, striking the deer about six inches behind the ribs. The bullet plowed through part of the stomach, lungs, and liver, and went out near the base of the neck. The buck got up and lunged forward, falling dead about three paces from its bed. Now, any experienced hunter, knowing the mule deer, will acknowledge that a full-grown buck is by no means a small animal, or an animal particularly noted for its lack of ability to take punishment.

On another occasion, I was hunting lions with this same Butler on the north rim of the Grand Canyon. His pack of hounds cornered a lion, and we approached within twenty yards to make the kill. Jack feared the .357 revolver would only wound the lion and thus endanger his dogs. He hesitated to let me shoot. I assured him that the first shot would kill, and somewhat reluctantly he gave me the go-ahead signal. The bullet struck the lion in the back of the head, passing through just below the eyes and bulging both eyes completely out. The animal dropped lifeless.

Later on that same day, we caught two more lions, both knocked down with a .300 Savage rifle. In neither instance did the bullet go clear through, and we were compelled to finish off one of the lions with a heavy rock. From then on, Butler was thoroughly convinced that the .357 hand iron would kill anything. He told me he had killed over 400 lions in the past thirty years and that very few rifle bullets penetrated entirely through. He further explained that lions have very tough skulls, while their bodies are built up of hard muscles which tend to retard the bullet.

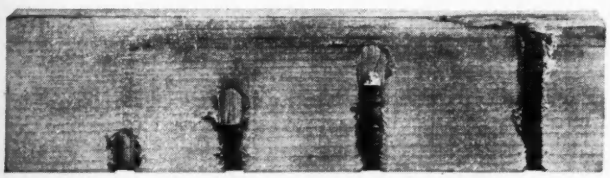
November a year ago I shot two bucks within sixty seconds of each other, using the .357 Magnum—one a ten-pointer at between seventy and eighty yards, and the other a seven-pointer at from forty to fifty yards. On the former, the bullet pierced the body just behind the shoulder, went through a two-inch oak limb and ricocheted off the trunk of the tree. On the second deer, the bullet struck the base of the neck, crushing the bone and going clear through. *(Continued on page 29)*

Something New in Air Rifles

By MAJOR GENERAL JULIAN S. HATCHER

DID YOU KNOW THAT OUR NAVY once had a cruiser whose main battery consisted entirely of air rifles? She was the dynamite cruiser *Vesuvius*, whose three immense pneumatic guns hurled huge charges of high explosive against the shore fortifications around Santiago de Cuba in 1898. That certainly shows that air rifles can be real guns and not, as is so generally supposed, mere toys.

Highly compressed air, like any other gas under great pressure, exerts a heavy push, and when released it can move quickly enough to keep pushing even against a very fast moving object, such as a bullet in a gun barrel. Based on this fact, we have for a long time had air rifles of one type or another, some mere toys, others high-grade weapons useful for target practice and the killing of small game.



Penetration in wood is shown by this one-inch block of white pine. Shots, starting at left, were powered by one, two, three and four strokes of pump

In general, there have been two basic types of air rifle in use for many years. One is the spring-actuated type, such as the ordinary B.B. gun, the powerful B.S.A. (Birmingham Small Arms) air rifle, the Webley air pistol, and many others. While some of these guns, notably the B.S.A., are quite effective, the inertia of the heavy spring-driven piston causes quite a disturbing jump when the trigger is pulled, and really fine accuracy is hard to obtain in practice. There is, moreover, a limit to the speed with which the bullet can be driven by this means. The .22 caliber B.S.A. air rifle drives a .22 caliber 15 grain spool-shaped bullet at 435 feet per second, giving a muzzle energy of 6.3 foot-pounds.

At thirty feet, the new Sheridan air rifle will put 'em "all in one hole." The target is reproduced actual size

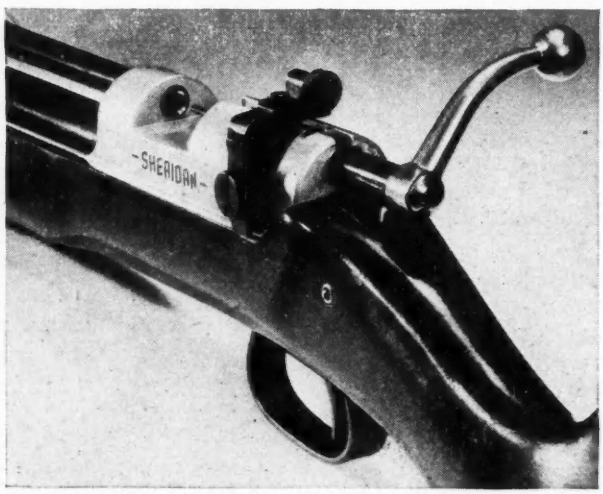
The other type is a true pneumatic rifle, in which air is pumped into a chamber or reservoir, and retained there until the user is ready to shoot. Then the air is released by a valve actuated by the trigger pull. A gun of this type has none of that disturbing jump so characteristic of the spring-operated type with its heavy piston. There is every opportunity to get quite respectable bullet velocity and power, and such a gun can be very pleasant to shoot, as it has no noticeable recoil. The Benjamin and Crossman are guns of this latter type.

A new arrival in the field, acting on this same principle, is the Sheridan Pneumatic Rifle, which has been brilliantly and painstakingly engineered to retain and, if possible, improve on the good points of previous designs, and at the same time overcome their defects and disadvantages.

The Sheridan Pneumatic was originated by Mr. E. Wackerhagen, who is a long-time shooting enthusiast. When his target practice was curtailed by the wartime shortage of ammunition he determined to do something about it. He decided that a good strong arm and a few strokes of a pump could easily substitute for hard-to-get primers and powder, and that plain lead bullets could be obtained far more easily and inexpensively than loaded cartridges.

One of the things about the ordinary pneumatic type of air gun that bothered Mr. Wackerhagen was the fact that the valve which holds the air pressure has a very exacting job to do and could easily get out of order. He decided to make an improved valve mechanism that would be as nearly foolproof as possible. More important, he designed it so that if trouble did develop, the entire air chamber and valve assembly could be removed and replaced by the owner without having to send the gun back to the factory.

After Mr. Wackerhagen had started on the work of designing this new gun he found that he had a real engineering project on his hands—so he obtained the collaboration of a professional engineer, Mr. I. R. Kraus, in completing the design.



A close-up of the rear sight and bolt mechanism of the Sheridan pneumatic rifle. The sight is adjustable for windage and elevation. Gun is characterized by full weight, man-sized stock, and fine quality of workmanship

To begin with, the gun was made big and husky. It is a full-sized weapon, weighing 5 pounds 14 ounces. It is 37 inches overall, with a 20-inch barrel. The caliber is .195, and the barrel is rifled with three grooves .0025 inch deep, right-hand twist, with one turn in twelve inches.

Because compressed air deposits moisture when released, the barrel had to be made of a rust-proof material. A special bronze with high tensile strength was chosen, and the rifling grooves, instead of being cut or scraped into the metal, are broached with a special carboloy tool, which gives a glasslike frictionless surface and eliminates any tendency to leading.

The bullets are of a special design, the result of many trials to obtain the greatest accuracy and the highest velocity with a given number of strokes of the pump. Bullet weight is 15.3 grains; the diameter is .195 inch at the front, with a narrow rotating band of slightly greater diameter (.200 inch) at the rear, to take the rifling.

The air pressure is obtained by a pump under the barrel, which is operated by swinging the forearm forward and back. Two strokes of the pump give a velocity at ten feet from the muzzle of 400 feet per second. As the number of strokes is increased the velocity becomes greater:

Number Pumps	*Velocity*
2	400
4	510
6	620
8	707
10	750
12	770

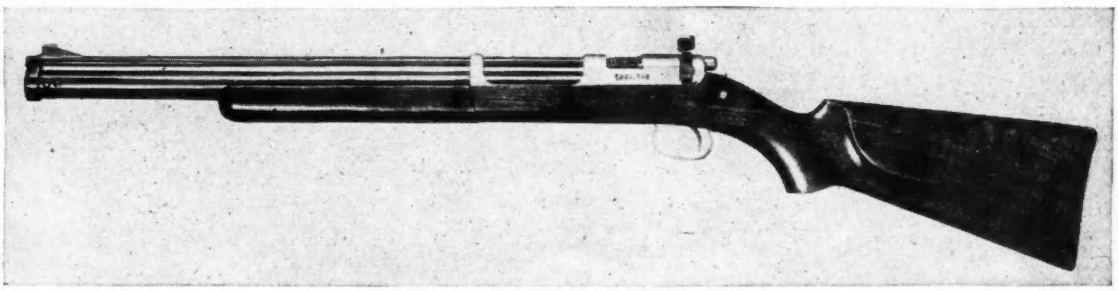
These results were obtained by a man thoroughly used to the gun, who operated the pump with a smart fast stroke. This requires a bit of a knack, as the pump, which is easy enough to work for the first three or four strokes, becomes quite hard to operate as the air pressure piles up.

The pump cylinder is made of a special leaded bronze chosen for its self-lubricating properties, and the piston head is made of a synthetic compound somewhat like rubber, called Hycar. In engineering tests the pump has stood 300,000 strokes without noticeable wear. The air pressure is held in a strong bronze cylinder with a ball valve, and is released to discharge the gun by a striker which knocks the ball from its seat, allowing the air to rush past it.

The company was most fortunate in being able to obtain a quantity of very fine walnut which had been prepared for another use during the war. Consequently, the stocks of these guns are unusually good looking. The stock has a pistol grip and cheekpiece and measures 13½ inches from trigger to center of buttplate.

The gun has a good, wide blade front sight and an adjustable peep on the receiver.

The bullets come in transparent plastic screw-top boxes, 500 to a box. Each box has five lines on the side, so that by looking at the lines the number of bullets remaining can be estimated.



A side view of the new Sheridan air rifle

To operate the gun, the bolt handle is turned up and drawn back to cock the striker. Then a bullet is inserted, the bolt closed and locked, the shotgun-type safety put on, and the pressure pumped up. It is now ready to shoot.

The accuracy of this gun is superb, as can be seen from the target shown on the opposite page, which was made at 30 feet from a muzzle rest.

Here is a gun which is capable of real target shooting, is deadly on small pests, and is a real pleasure to shoot. It is a quality job all the way through. ◆ ◆ ◆

Hunting With Handguns

(Continued from page 27)

The ten-pointer ran about forty yards before it fell dead, while the second buck dropped in its tracks.

I'm not trying to argue that the .357 Magnum revolver is the equal of a high-powered rifle within the sixty-yard range or that it is possible to increase one's percentage of kills merely by becoming "Pete, the Pistol Packer." My experience, however, has proved that the .357 Magnum is powerful enough to make clean kills. With it the hunter can reasonably expect to equal his present rifle percentage—if he respects the limitations of the handgun, and picks his shots. The chief advantage in making the change from rifle to pistol lies in the reduction of weight in the pack load. And the price you pay for this reduction is high, if you go about it in the right way. First, you must devote at least two years to the consistent use of the pistol, during which time you should digest not less than 40,000 of these atomic pills. Either that, or already be proficient enough with the pistol to hold that 70 percent average at 100 yards. Either way, after the novitiate, you can consider yourself a fair beginner. Having fired over 200,000 rounds with handguns, I'm just emerging from this nascent stage.

The pistol is without question the most difficult of firearms to master. But if the hunter is as lazy as I am—and as allergic to packing weight—I recommend that he make the change. And don't forget, once the pistol "bug" bites, whole new vistas will open to the hunter, for he's embracing the grandest of sports—shooting and hunting with the pistol. ◆ ◆ ◆

Wild Bill Hickok

(Continued from page 17)

to Hickok's character. He was cool. He had the chilled-steel courage of a man so lacking in imagination or so certain of his own destiny as to be utterly lacking in fear. It was that courage which enabled him to stand without flinching before Tutt's aimed fire, then raise his own gun and coolly, deliberately drive a pistol ball into the man's heart at seventy-five yards.

And he was ruthless. I do not say that he was not justified in ruthlessness. Perhaps he was. Remember that he was hated; hated bitterly by scores of men—men known to him and men he did not know—who had the desire and the skill and the ever-ready means to kill him. Some of these men hated him for specific things Hickok had done; others would have killed him merely for the fame of having killed so great a gunman. It was Hickok's belief, often stated and doubtless true, that he lived every moment under the constant threat of assassination. He lived armed. He wore two guns swung low at his hips and, at least in his later years, a twin-barrelled derringer under the collar of his coat, within quick reach of a raised hand. Often enough, when he was gambling, this or another derringer would be thrust inside the leg of his boot. He wore a razor-sharp knife. And, so frequently that this is the picture of him best remembered by the men who knew him, he carried a rifle or a shotgun in his hands as he walked down the center of the streets of those frontier towns.

Down the center of the street! The center—because in that position he might have at least a split second of warning if an assassin awaited him behind the corner of any building!

He never entered a building or a room without swinging the door back against the wall—lest a man might wait there to kill him. Until the day of his death, he never stood or sat with his back to a door or a window if he could help it. He was forever alert, his nerves tight, his mind forever on the thin edge of readiness.

And perhaps he was right. Certain it is that, the one time he is known to have relaxed these precautions, he was killed.

It was that alertness, that readiness, and that willingness to shoot first and find out afterward, that killed Mike Williams.

Five years later—August 2, 1876—Hickok sat down at a poker table in a saloon in Deadwood, Dakota Territory. But this was a changed man from the Hickok of Abilene. Deadwood was much impressed by Hickok's reputation and there was talk of making him town marshal. At least one source states that Hickok's answer was, "No, thank you, boys. My shootin' days are over." Be that as it may, there is no doubt whatever that Hickok had a presentiment of his approaching death. He said repeatedly, "I've got a hunch that Deadwood is my last camp. I've got a feelin' that my time is up." Letters written by him shortly before his death reflect that feeling.

Strange words from a man who had never before doubted his own invincibility! Something had happened. Perhaps his recent marriage to Mrs. Agnes Thatcher Lake, a tightrope dancer and lion trainer, had somehow changed him. Or perhaps the fact that, at thirty-nine, he was still pretty much a failure as most men judge it, had subdued him. He was famous, yes. He had been a great Scout and a great lawman. But he had failed as a showman, where his friend, Buffalo Bill, had succeeded. And now, nearing forty, except for occasional jobs as a guide in the employ of men who sought him out because of his reputation—except for ventures like the mining prospect on which he was now engaged—he was little more than a gambler. Perhaps his great ego was shaken.

His companions at that poker table were Carl Mann, Charley Rich, and Captain Massey, the latter a former Mississippi River pilot. Several times, Hickok asked Rich to exchange seats with him, to give Hickok his accustomed chair where he could sit with his back to the wall. Rich jokingly refused, and regretted that refusal bitterly thereafter, claiming that he was the cause of Bill's death.

So Hickok sat with his back to a door; and Jack McCall came through that door, stepped close to the table, and drove a .45 slug through Hickok's head. The bullet penetrated from back to front; went on to pierce Captain Massey's left arm.

Jack McCall would have died of sheer terror at the mere thought of meeting Hickok face to face with guns smoking. Before they hanged him, someone asked him why he didn't at least step around in front of Hickok before he fired. McCall said, "Because I didn't want to commit suicide." What McCall wanted was the fame he thought would come to the man who killed "the champion." What he got was a noose.

An odd thing about this killing is that the gun—a .45 Colt—with which McCall killed Hickok was tested afterward—and not another cartridge in the cylinder would fire!

Another odd fact is this: Wild Bill Hickok, whose name is more widely known than that of any other man as a pistolman, was buried with a rifle in his coffin! The rifle was a Sharps, one Bill had carried for years and of which he was very fond. . . . What became of the pistols he wore when he died, I do not know. I have seen several, heard of many more, "Wild Bill pistols." Some of these may be, probably are, authentic. After all, Hickok must have owned many guns in his lifetime. But which ones are authentic and which are not is a question I shall leave to others to answer.

How many men did Hickok kill? I don't know that either. I doubt if Hickok knew, with any certainty, himself. He believed implicitly in his right to kill in order that he might live; and dead men rode lightly on his conscience—if at all.

What kind of a man was he? He was an egotist; not necessarily a braggart, but a man sure of his own value, contemptuous of any who opposed him. He was brave. He was careless of the truth, willing to tell tall tales where the truth might hurt him—as witness the Rock Creek legend; yet he performed deeds on other occasions almost as wonderful as the lies he told. He was a gambler, yet great men spoke well of him. He was the consort of prostitutes, yet fine ladies admired him. His metier was the saloon, the gambling dive; yet he was respected in high places. He was a cold-blooded killer; and he was a hero. And—he was unforgettable!

He died some seventy years ago, but his legend lives—and will live, so long as men talk of courage. Whatever else we may say of him, this much is true: He shot straight, and asked few favors . . . and he walked like a man in the presence of his enemies. ◆ ◆ ◆

IF YOUR SHOTGUN KICKS LIKE A MULE, WHY NOT TRY A

Home Made MUZZLE BRAKE

By C. G. MOFFAT

NEAR MY HOME IS A BODY OF WATER, Elizabeth Lake, where guys go to shoot —at everything and anything, including duck hunters. During duck season the water is full of boats and the shores are lined with shooters. Let something with feathers come flapping along and the barrage that sets up reminds one of the antiaircraft fire met by Allied airmen over the Ploesti oil fields. Usually nothing comes down but a rain of lead. If the bird happens to come in low over the water, the wisest thing to do is crouch and wish you were full six fathoms under. When the sound of firing has ceased, you can hear several guys cussing and muttering threats to someone's life. And then occasionally someone gets painfully plastered. But usually we go along with just the noise of the guns and the cussing of the not-so-accurate duck hunters.

The hunters around the lake shoot at a duck at any altitude, whether he's dodging between the boats or coming over at 8,000 feet. I would have liked to join them on every shot but my gun was a short-range affair. I was so painfully aware of this that I determined to equip myself properly and hiked down to Sears Roebuck. By luck or something, I got the last "Long Tom" they had in stock. It was a beaut, a single-shot twelve gauge gun with a thirty-six-inch barrel, plus a good thick recoil pad. For eight dollars and fifty cents it was a good buy.

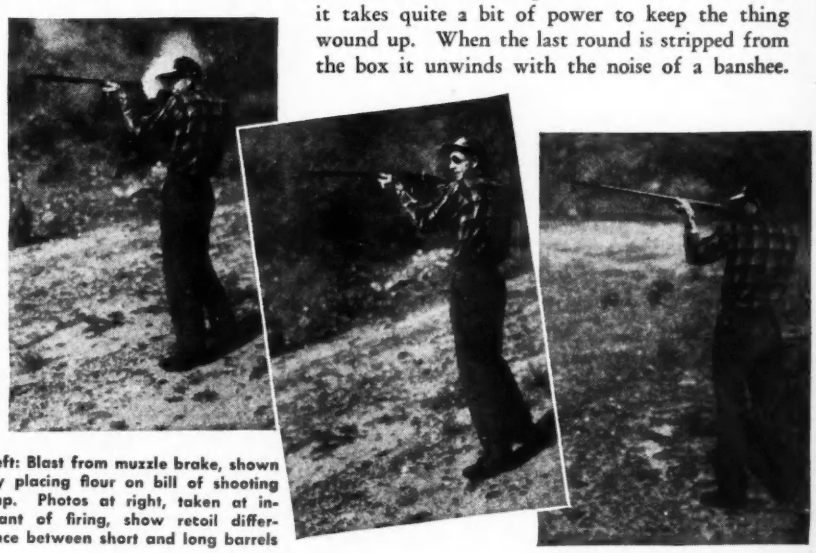
The first morning I was out with it, I sat waiting for the legal shooting time, figuring that I would really knock those birds for a loop. My first shot came at a bird mushing along about sixty yards from me. I raised, lead him a way, and touched the trigger. I awoke and gathered my marbles just in time to hear the *plop* the bird made when he hit the water. I hung around until I had cleaned out a box of shells, then went home with a few ducks and a head which felt as if it had been opened with a meat cleaver.

Before venturing out again, I tried to tame that gun a bit by hollowing out the forearm so that it would take about a pound of lead. This added weight did hold the thing back a bit. But after about ten shots the fore-end split lengthwise and the lead fell to the ground. I tried to finish out the morning with nothing more than the barrel for a handhold, but finally had to give up when the bells started ringing in my head. Too, when I got careless in reloading my torn and tattered piece, the barrel fell to the ground whenever the gun was broken open to reload. The only thing to do was to gather my loose gun parts and other equipment and head for home. I also took home with me a determination to harness all that rearward energy and return to this lovely duck spot with my long broom-handled gun.

At the time it was my job, working for a large aircraft outfit, to help with the test firing of the first 20 mm. cannon ever installed in one of our now well-known fighter planes. The gun we were working with, a French Hispano, and some of the newer American models to be installed on these planes, had two types of feed mechanisms.

The French called their booster feedbox a *Chattelarault* feed. With certain alterations and improvements we call it the "M1 Feed Mechanism." The operating principle is the same on both; the feedbox is wound at the same time a short belt of ammunition is started in the loading slot. After this is done the feed is attached to the gun and the short belt of ammunition joined to the main ammunition supply in the main ammunition box. This winding of the feedbox keeps a powerful load on the shells entering the gun and assures a positive supply of shells as the gun fires. When the gun fires the feedbox remains stationary. A plunger with a roller on the end makes contact with a cammed surface on the gun and working up and down keeps the feedbox fully wound as long as there is ammunition in the box. Every time the gun fires, a shell is stripped from the box and it unwinds one notch. This plunger, operating the ratchet and spool, replaces the lost tension.

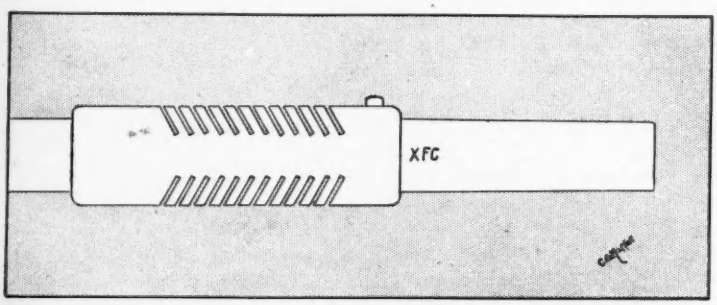
With this type of feed a "muzzle adjusting nut" is screwed on the muzzle of the gun. This nut holds the recoil spring, which is the flat-coil type. The adjustment of this nut controls the recoil travel. If it is too tight, the feed mechanism fails to operate. If too loose, the gun may suffer damage. Almost all of the recoil is utilized to operate the feed mechanism; it takes quite a bit of power to keep the thing wound up. When the last round is stripped from the box it unwinds with the noise of a banshee.



Left: Blast from muzzle brake, shown by placing flour on bill of shooting cap. Photos at right, taken at instant of firing, show recoil difference between short and long barrels

The second feed mechanism, which really is a large drum, takes the place of the feedbox. This drum holds only sixty rounds. The M1 feed mechanism may be attached to the ammo belt of any size ammunition box. This drum sits on top of the gun and the shells are stripped from it in the same manner as from the other feed. When the shells are loaded in the drum, a shell follower and spring are compressed, the same thing you have in your bolt-action rifle.

Using the sixty-round drum, no recoil is needed to operate any of the feed mechanism and we have too much recoil. Now we arrive at the point. The "muzzle adjusting nut" is removed and a "muzzle brake" screwed on in its place. That's just what it is. The name really fits. It really puts the binders on the recoil. It looks something like the Lyman "Cutts" compensator. The main difference is that the slots are cut at a 30-degree or so angle. The gas escaping through the slots strikes the back side of the fins, having a tendency to pull the gun forward. Of course, the recoil is much greater so the gun still recoils to the rear but with a much smaller force. The thing really works. The first time the gun was fired I got a mighty good idea of just how much gas is blown to the rear from these sloping slots. Standing on a ladder between the fuselage and left engine, the blast about knocked me off. My clothes were plastered to my body and a pack of cigarettes flew out of the shirt pocket and over the wing of the plane. It was like a big blast of warm air filled with choking powder fumes. And this, my friends, is the little item I forgot when I started experimenting on my own "muzzle brake."



Made of 24ST Dural, this muzzle brake has twelve slots on top and twelve on bottom. Each is 1/16 inch wide, with .100 inch space between, and cut at a 30 degree angle

In the meantime, Long Tom was still beating me to a pulp. A new forearm had been fitted but with no lead this time. When firing Tom, it was almost impossible to keep shooting glasses on my nose. They were always getting knocked off. The crowning upset came the day the infernal thing slapped me from my seat in the boat and set the rear end of my caboose in an inch of icy water in the bottom of the boat. Of course, my friends were thoroughly enjoying my troubles. Something had to be done—and quick.

This was where my job and my troubles arrived at the same point. Why not try the muzzle brake idea? I made up an antirecoil gadget from 24ST Dural. The outside diameter of the body is $1\frac{7}{32}$ inches. The over-all length of the body and Weaver XFC tube is $7\frac{1}{8}$ inches. The inside diameter of the body is the same as the bore of the 12 gauge barrel. The slots are $\frac{1}{16}$ inch wide and the spacing between them is .100 inch. The body is fitted to the barrel with a standard forty thread. The slots are on a 30-degree angle and the total number of slots is twenty-four. Twelve on the top and twelve on the bottom. The whole thing was made on a lathe. A DuMore grinder, with a $\frac{1}{16}$-inch metal saw was used to cut the slots. For the small amount of time involved, and the results obtained, it was well worth the trouble. I forgot to mention a plating outfit gave the Dural body a black anodized finish. It looks like uptown stuff.

The loss of recoil was greatly realized after the first few shots were fired. Before the installation of this thing the gun had thirty-eight foot-pounds recoil. Now the recoil felt the same as a .30-'06 rifle. The '06 has about eighteen foot-pounds recoil.

Now the critter could be shot without that bone-crushing effect it had. It was used for one whole season at Elizabeth Lake with pretty fair results. All of the shots were long ones before I found out a shorter barrel, with the same choke, would perform just as well.

The following season I got the idea of trying a shorter barrel. Finding one lying around, it was not much of a job to rework it to fit the action, since I had to use the same ejector that was in the long barrel. This time the over-all length was twenty-four inches. It looked cute and wicked, and was easy to swing and handle. Too, there was no long broom handle to trip over. Everything went swell until the first shot was fired—a hair-raising experience. And this is not meant to be a pun.

I squared off on the first duck and let fly. BLAM—and the whole blam was right in my face. My first thought was, "so this is what it feels like to have a gun blow up in my face." A truckload of air, tasting like shotgun powder, was crammed down my lungs. My hat flew off and came down six feet from the boat. A chunk of wad, the size of a flat green pea, was stuck in my right ear lobe. Several smaller pieces were in my hair. There was wad fuzz on my eyebrows. The skin on my face smarted from the minute particles of wad and powder. Boy, what a blast that was! It was terrific!

After this I kept my head as low as possible, more or less out of the way, and managed to shoot enough to check the results between the two barrel lengths. There was not enough to bother about. Both seemed to have the same pattern and killing power on crippled ducks on the water. So I cut my Winchester pump to twenty-five inches overall, with the FC tube, and used a standard Weaver Choke Compensator.

The only reason I went back to the long barrel was to get away from that gosh-awful blast. I now use the gun to get the crippled ducks. The XFC tube with low-base eights or nines really does the trick. Every duck hunter knows how hard it is to kill a duck in the water. A tight choke and small shot are the answer. The larger shot just doesn't seem to have the proper pattern for this. Try the small shot some time in a tight tube.

With the long barrel the hair-raising blast just clears the shooter's head and no discomfort is experienced. The way it is installed now, it is restricted to long barrels only. Sometime I guess I will get around to turning the fins 180 degrees and see what happens when the blast goes by the shooter's shoulders. If I can get it on shorter barrels, it will be much nicer. But for taming that "Long Tom" of mine, the fins slating at the 30-degree angle really do the trick. ◆ ◆ ◆

EARLY REMINGTON HISTORY*

By CHARLES LEE KARR, JR., and CAROLL ROBBINS KARR

EARLY IN 1816, ELIPHALET REMINGTON, of Ilion, New York, decided to make his own rifle and produced the first Remington arm, a muzzle-loading flintlock. He forged the barrel from scrap iron, then walked fifteen miles to Utica to have it rifled. Morgan James, the gunsmith who did the rifling, was so impressed that he gave young Remington the lock. Eliphalet returned to Ilion, shaped a stock to his liking, and completed the gun. It was good—good enough to create an immediate demand for others like it. So began the Remington gun business.

. . . The senior Remington, who had migrated to New York state from Connecticut in 1800, had installed a forge on that part of his farm known as Ilion Gulph, where Steele's creek provided the necessary water power. There, father and son had carried on a substantial business, making farm implements and doing general repair work for farmers, for some years before the younger Remington made his first rifle. There, filling the neighbors' orders for similar guns, Eliphalet launched the Remington arms industry.

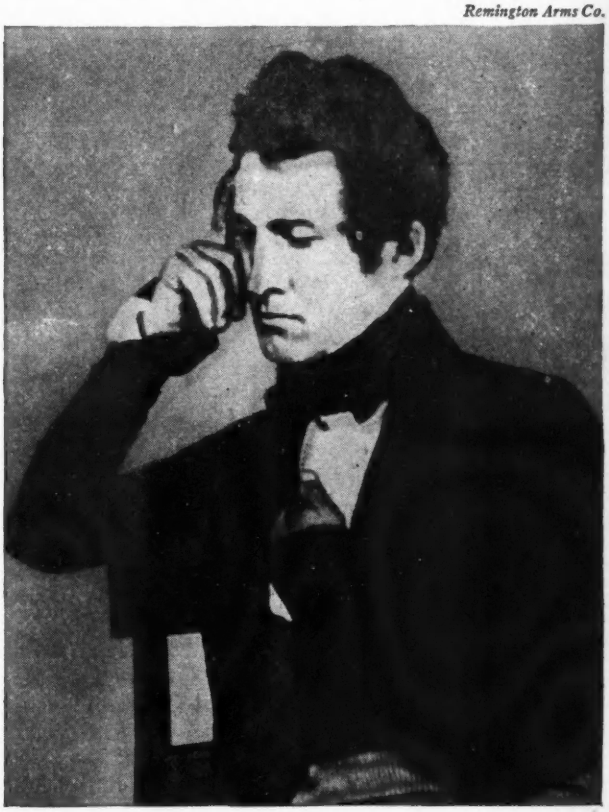
. . . As Remington's reputation as a fine arms maker grew and spread, he began manufacturing pistol and rifle barrels for gunsmiths and hardware merchants as well as completed guns for his own customer list. Shipments went by stagecoach, then by canal. By 1828 the gun business had outgrown the forge: constantly expanding trade and ever-larger shipments necessitated improved transportation facilities. The Remingtons purchased land in Ilion proper, built a shop on the canal, and installed the machinery taken from the forge. The elder Remington died in 1828 as the result of an accident which occurred during the building of that shop.

Within a year Eliphalet found even the new establishment inadequate. He constructed another building, the "Stone Forge," to meet the demand for gun barrels. That same year, 1829, he set up a shipping department stocked with gun parts and accessories. He started to work then on a system of interchangeable parts. He had already begun experimenting with materials. In the earlier years, Eliphalet had sent teams about the countryside for scrap iron. Later he secured iron ore from the Clinton ore beds in Oneida county. By 1829 he had tried steel in gun barrels. In the early forge fires he used charcoal burned from timber cut around Ilion. In 1829 he experimented with coal. The shop and forge took on the character of a modern plant.

At the plant on the canal, as in the earlier forge in the gulph, Eliphalet constantly invented, improvised, and improved machinery, methods, and materials. He never hesitated at change if change might mean betterment. Nor did he ever refuse to listen to a new idea. His interest in inventors and his willingness to hear them out attracted to Ilion men with ideas of every description in every stage of development. . . . Many of those who came and much of the work they did had no direct connection with the gun business. But the inventive spirit . . . guided the development of Remington arms.

In 1845 the factory started work on the first Remington service arms—the first standard models manufactured in great numbers. Before that time Remington rifles, shotguns, and pistols were almost entirely custom guns, altered constantly to incorporate new ideas. Although Remington continued to do custom gunsmithing, the majority of Remington arms after 1845 were standard models. In that year the firm took over a government contract for 5,000 rifles from a John Griffiths, of Cincinnati, Ohio, and shortly afterward a government contract for Jenks carbines from N. P. Ames, of Springfield, Massachusetts. Eliphalet added another building, the "Old Armory," and constructed the "upper" water race. Before he had completed the original contracts, additional orders came.

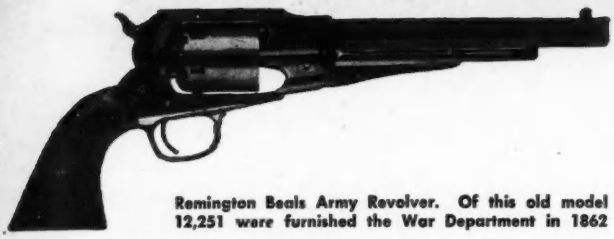
Remington Arms Co.



Eliphalet Remington

In 1856 Philo, Samuel, and Eliphalet, Jr., became partners of their father in the firm of E. Remington and Sons. Philo, the eldest, born in 1816, had mastered every branch of the technical work. He was as competent a gunmaker as his

** Excerpted from "Remington Handguns" by Charles Lee Karr, Jr., and Caroll Robbins Karr, to be published this month by the Military Service Publishing Co. A review of "Remington Handguns" can be found on page 95.*

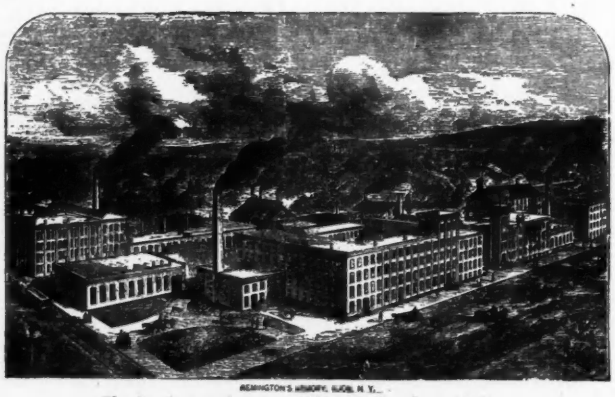


Remington Beals Army Revolver. Of this old model 12,251 were furnished the War Department in 1862

father, and like him, equally competent at directing the work of others. Samuel, two years younger, had previously engaged in separate ventures of his own. After an unsuccessful try at railroad construction in the West, he returned to Ilion where he manufactured brooms, then Yale locks, bank vault doors, and, in 1855, two hundred breechloading guns under Merrill's patent. Samuel dropped these separate endeavors when he entered the partnership. Eliphalet, Jr., the youngest, born in 1828, had, like Philo, remained with his father, but in the office rather than the plant work. The establishment of the firm was an outward symbol of rapid growth and development in the '50s. A brochure put out the following year, 1857, announced the manufacture of a "New and Superior Revolver," the first of the Remington percussion revolvers.

When the threatened Civil War became tragic actuality in 1861, Remington turned its energies and equipment to producing arms for the Government. The company added new buildings, purchased new tools and machinery, and installed steam power. Even with this expansion, the "Armory" could not meet the government orders that poured in. To fill the contracts for service revolvers, the firm rented a building in Utica and equipped it with additional tools and machinery. The entire organization worked day and night, and no one harder than its founder and head. The tremendous strain was too great: Eliphalet Remington died on August 12, 1861. Philo took over management of the manufacturing department; Samuel became contract negotiator and purchasing agent; Eliphalet, Jr., assumed direction of the office and correspondence. In 1865 a corporation keeping the name "E. Remington and Sons" succeeded the partnership.

In April of 1865 the company faced a serious crisis. Abrupt termination of all government purchases of arms immediately the Civil War ended brought production to a sudden halt. Remington had incurred considerable indebtedness in the rapid expansion necessary to produce arms needed by the Government during the war. The company had flatly refused to join in the wartime profiteering so common during the emergency; in fact, their contract prices were so low that the firm now found itself in critical financial straits. Remington had already developed a new breechloading arm. Securing extension of notes and new credits, the firm set to work to perfect it and to retool the plant for its manufacture. With the success of this famous "rolling-block" action breechloader, the company again prospered. The Remington paid in full the claims of all stockholders and depositors of the Ilion Bank, which had closed in the crisis.



The Remington Armory at Ilion, N. Y., about 1860, pictured in Norton's *Breech-Loading Small Arms*.

The years that followed brought ever-increased activity and fame to the Remingtons and Ilion. Experiment and improvement produced new guns and improved models. In 1866 Remington advertised revolvers, rifles, muskets and carbines, shotguns, pocket, belt, and repeating pistols, rifle canes, revolving rifles, rifle and shotgun barrels, and gun materials and accessories. In 1867 came the first orders from foreign countries. Denmark, Sweden, Spain, then Egypt, and finally France placed ever larger orders for the Remington breechloader. In addition the firm filled contracts with the Army and Navy for single-shot pistols and rifles. In the '70s Remington arms went to Puerto Rico, Cuba, Chile, Colombia, Honduras, China. And early in those years Remington began large-scale manufacture of cartridges and the designing of cartridge machinery.

By 1880 conditions had changed greatly. Foreign countries were establishing their own armories; there were fewer contracts to be had, and those Remington would not secure through the expected bribery. Samuel, who had represented the firm abroad, returned to New York in 1877. To keep the vast plant busy, Remington turned to new lines of manufacture, which, except for the typewriter, proved neither successful nor profitable. Even in the arms field the firm suffered a loss. Remington had given employment and mechanical facilities to inventors for experimentation on repeating long arms, with disappointing results. The Keene magazine rifle, developed and manufactured at some expense, failed to measure up to Remington standards and was dropped. A more successful bolt-action, magazine rifle, the Lee, did not sell in quantity sufficient to cover the loss on the Keene. In December of 1882 Samuel Remington died; his stock in the company was sold to Philo, who then became principal owner as well as manager.

. . . In 1886 the corporation went into receivership. In March, 1888 Hartley and Graham of New York, who in 1867 had organized the Union Metallic Cartridge Company of Bridgeport, Connecticut, bought a controlling interest. Philo Remington died in April, 1889.

From 1888 until 1910 the firm operated under the name "Remington Arms Company." Most of the handgun line was dropped at the outset of this period and efforts concentrated largely on long arms. In 1910 Remington Arms and the Union Metallic Cartridge Company, which had been operating separately though under the same control, were merged. After 1910 only two pistol models were manufactured for the general public. In 1920 the corporation, again reorganized, returned to the name "Remington Arms Company," which it still bears. In 1933 E. I. du Pont de Nemours bought controlling interest. By 1935, the two Remington handguns had been discontinued. ♦ ♦ ♦

GERMAN ARMS CODES

By W. H. B. SMITH

IDENTIFYING GERMAN MILITARY SMALL ARMS was a comparatively simple matter before World War II. The number of models was small to begin with, and the location of manufacture was generally to be found clearly marked on the receiver of the individual weapon. Hitler and his army changed all that. The resulting system of identification, by the use of combinations of code letters and dates, has deluged the gun editors of this country with sacks of generally unanswerable inquiries.

The codes and lists given here are published for the first time in an endeavor to provide a service to owners of "liberated"

HOW TO FIND OUT WHERE YOUR GERMAN MILITARY WEAPON WAS MADE, AND WHO MADE IT . . .

small arms used by the Germans. It must be emphasized that these lists are not presented by the author as being complete. However, they represent the most detailed and accurate collection of data we have thus far been able to assemble.

The codes were prepared originally by German Intelligence. I have been asked repeatedly if these codes may not have been deliberately doctored by the Germans to make them valueless in the event of capture. I doubt it. Wherever it has been possible to check against weapons definitely known to have been seized by our men in individual plants, I have found the codes to check.

Before the war German Intelligence officers had prepared pictorial handbooks covering the arms and ammunition of every nation. During the war books of this nature were kept up to date by the addition of photographs and essential data covering every unfamiliar type encountered. A key number was assigned to every unit listed.

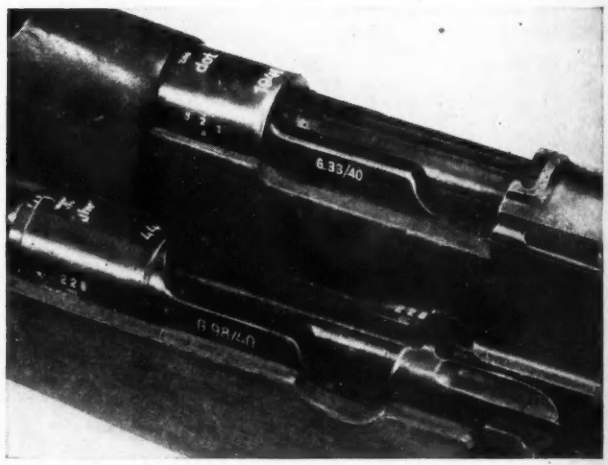
Wherever possible the Germans converted existing facilities in captured areas to produce weapons for their own cartridges. At this time code letters were assigned to the factory making the weapons (or ammunition), and the small arms themselves bore those code letters from then on.

As to the actual arms and ammunition involved, the German designations immediately identified them, both as to nationality and as to types. Thus "Machinenpistole 715 (r)—russ 40—" was the Russian 1940-type machine pistol (submachine gun). The accompanying cartridge designation told the German soldier that this arm would handle either the 7.62 mm. Russian pistol cartridge or the German 7.63 mm. Mauser pistol cartridge. (Incidentally, it might be well to insert a note at this point on the Russian pistol: It will function well with German Mauser 7.63 mm. ammunition and with certain American brands. Ammunition of one American make in this caliber, however, will not chamber in the Russian pistol. The case will stick just ahead of the extracting groove, indicating apparently that this particular brand of ammunition was made to specifications taken from specimen pistols rather than from Mauser dimensions.)

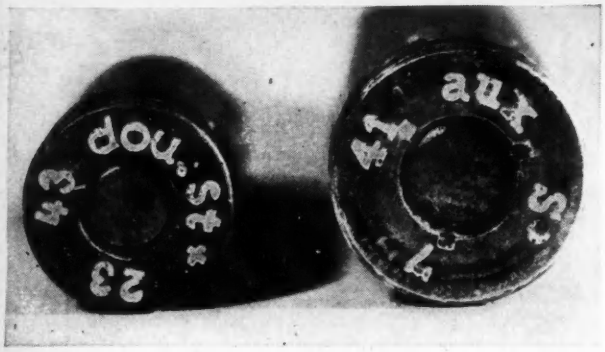
It will be observed that the following codes cover manufacture in most of the German-occupied countries—and in some countries not occupied. If you have any small arms bearing codes other than those listed here, I should appreciate your cooperation in sending the code letters and a reasonably thorough description of the weapon itself, care of THE RIFLEMAN.

German Code for Small Arms Manufactured in and for Germany

aak	Waffenfabrik Brunn A.G., Prague
ac	Carl Walther, Zella-Mehlis, Thuringia
aek	F. Dusek Waffenerzeugung, Opoczno bei Nachod
amn	Mauser Werke, Waldeck, bei Kassel
ar	Mauser Werke, Berlin-Borsigwalde
asb	D.W.M. A.G., Berlin-Borsigwalde
auc	Mauser Werke, A.G., Koln-Ehrenfeld
awt	Wurttembergische Metallwarenfabrik A.G., Geishingen
axs	Berndorfer Metallwarenfabrik Arthur Krupp A.G., Berndorf, Neiderdonau
ayf	Erma (B. Geipel, G.m.b.H.), Waffenfabrik, Erfurt
azg	Siemens-Schuckert Werke A.G., Berlin
bcd	Gustloff Werke, Werk Weimar, Weimar
be	Berndorfer Metallwarenfabrik Arthur Krupp A.G., Berndorf, Neiderdonau
bh	Brunner Waffenfabrik A.G., Brunn (Brno, Czechoslovakia)
bjv	Bohm-Mahrische Kolben-Danek A.G., Prag, Werk Vysocan
bkp	Gewehrfabrik H. Burgsmüller u. Sohn. G.m.b.H., Kreisen Harz
bkp	Rohrenfabrik Johannes Surmann G.m.b.H., Arnsberg
bky	Bohmische Waffenfabrik A.G. in Prag, Werk Ung-Brod (Moravia)
bmv	Rheinmetall Borsig A.G., Werke Sömmerda, Sömmerda
bmz	Minerva Nahmaschinenfabrik A.G., Boscowitz
bnd	M.A.N. A.G., Werk Nürnberg, Nürnberg
bnz	Steyr-Daimler Puch A.G., Werk Steyr, Steyr, Austria
bpr	Johannus Grossfuss Metall u. Locierwarenfabrik, Dobeln
br	Mathias Bauerle Laufwerke, G.m.b.H., St. Georgen, Schwarzwald
bvl	Th. Bergmann & Co. Abeilung Automaten u. Metallwarenfabrikation, Hamburg, Altona



Typical markings on German military rifles. Upper rifle is Gewehr 33/40, made in 1941 at Brno, Czechoslovakia. The other is Gewehr 98/40 of 1944 manufacture, made at Budapest. Last three figures of serial number are 228

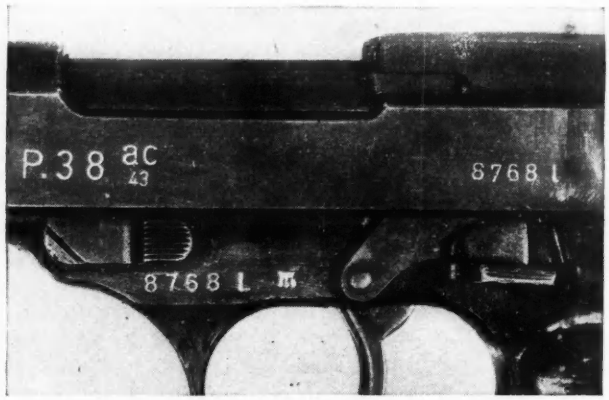


Headstampings on German ammunition tell the same story. At left is 9 mm. of 1943 manufacture, probably made at Bystrica plant of Waffenwerke Brunn. The 7.9 mm. cartridge on left was made at Magdeburg plant of Polte

bwo	Rheinmetall-Borsig A.G., Werk Dusseldorf, Dusseldorf
bxb	Skodawerke, Pilsen
byf	Mauser Werke, Oberndorf
bym	Genossenschafts Maschinenhaus der Buchenmacher, Ferlach, Carinthia, Austria
bzt	Fritz Wolf, Gewehrfabrik, Zella-Mahlis, Thuringia
cdo	Th. Bergmann & Co. A.G., Waffen u. Munitionfabrik, Werk Veltem am Main
ce	J. P. Sauer & Sohn Gewehrfabrik, Suhl, Saxony
ch	Fabrique Nationale d'Armes d'Guerre, Herstal, Liege, Belgium
chd	Berlin Industrie Werke A.G., Berlin-Spandau
cof	Waffenfabrik Carl Eickhorn, Solingen
con	Franz Stock Maschinen u. Werkzeugfabrik, Berlin
cos	Merz-Werke Gebr. Merz, Frankfurt am Main
cpo	Rheinmetall-Borsig, A.G. Werke, Berlin-Marienfeld
cpp	Rheinmetall-Borsig, A.G. Werke Breslau
cpq	Rheinmetall-Borsig, A.G. Werk Guben
crs	Paul Weyersberg & Co. Waffenfabrik, Solingen
cvl	WKC Waffenfabrik G.m.b.H., Solingen-Wald
cxg	Spreewerk G.m.b.H., Metallwarenfabrik, Berlin-Spandau
dgl	Remo Gewehrfabrik, Gebruder Rempt, Suhl
dfb	Gustloff-Werke, Waffenwerk Suhl, Suhl, Saxony
dot	Waffenwerke Brunn A.G., Brunn. (Brno, Czechoslovakia)
dou	Waffenwerke Brunn A.G., Werke Bystrica
dov	Waffenwerke Brunn A.G., Werke Wsetin
dow	Opticotechna (formerly Waffenfabrik Brunn A.G.), Prerau, Czechoslovakia
dox	Waffenfabrik Brunn A.G., Werk Podbrezova, Czechoslovakia
dph	I.G. Farbenindustrie A.G., Werk Autogen, Frankfurt am Main-Griesheim
dsh	Waffenwerke Ing F. Janecek, Prague (See also hew: Geisserie in Teinitz s./S.)
duv	Berliner-Lubecker Maschinenfabriken, Werk Lubeck
duw	Deutsche Rohrewerke A.G., Werk Thyssen, Mulheim
egy	Ing. Fr. August Pfeffer, Oberlind, Thuringia
fnh	Bohmische Waffenfabrik A.G. in Prag, Werk Strakonitz
fue	Mechanische Werkstatt A.G. (formerly Skodawerke, Werk Dubnica) Dubnica
fwh	Norddeutsche Maschinenfabrik G.m.b.H., Hauptverwaltung, Berlin
fxa	Eisenacher Karosseriefabrik Assman G.m.b.H., Eisenach
fxo	C. G. Haenel Waffen und Fahrrad Fabrik, Suhl, Saxony
fze	F. W. Holler Waffenfabrik, Solingen
fzs	Heinrich Krieghoff Waffenfabrik, Suhl, Saxony
ghf	Fritz Kiess & Co. G.m.b.H., Waffenfabrik, Suhl, Saxony
gsb	Rheinmetall-Borsig A.G., Louvain, Belgium. (Formerly S. A. des Ateliers de lay Dyle)
gsc	S.A. Belge de Mecanique et de l'Armenente, Monceau-sur-Sambre, Belgium
guy	Werkzeugmaschinenfabrik Oerlikon, Buhrle & Co., Zurich-Oerlikon, Switzerland
hew	Waffenfabrik Ing. F. Janecek, Prague, Pangrac Wasserwerk
hhg	Rheinmetall-Borsig A.G., Werk Tegel, Berlin-Tegel
hhv	Steyr-Daimler Puch A.G., Werk Nibelungen, St. Valentin, Austria
jhv	Metallwaren Waffen u Maschinenfabriken A.G., Budapest
jkg	Kongl. Ungar. Staatl-Eisen, Stahl und Maschinenfabrik, Budapest
jlj	Heeres Zeugamt, Ingoldstadt
jua	Danuvia Waffen und Munitionsfabrik A.G., Budapest
jwa	Manufacture d'Armes Chatellerault, Chatellerault, France
kfk	Dansk Industrie Syndicat, Copenhagen, Denmark
kls	Steyr-Daimler Puch A.G., Warsaw
ksb	Manufacture Nationale d'armes de Levallois, Paris
kur	Steyr-Daimler Puch A.G., Werk Graz
kwn	S. A. Fiat, Turin, Italy
lza	Mauser Werke A.G., Werk Karlsruhe
moc	Johann Springer's Erben Gewehrfabrikanten, Wein (Vienna)
mpr	S. A. Hispano Suiza, Geneva, Switzerland
mrb	Aktiengesellschaft (formerly Skodawerke, Werk Prague) Prague
myx	Rheinmetall-Borsig A.G., Werk Sömmerda, Thuringia
nec	Waffenwerke Brunn A.G., Prague
nhr	Rheinmetall-Borsig A.G., Werk Sömmerda, Thuringia
myv	Rheinmetall-Borsig A.G., Werk Unterluss
nyw	Gustloff-Werke, Weiningen

German Code for Ammunition Manufactured in and for Germany

ad	Patronen, Zundhutchen u. Metallwarenfabrik A.G., (formerly Sellier und Bellot), Schoenbeck am Elbe
ak	Munitionsfabriken (formerly Sellier u. Bellot, Prague), factory at Vlasim
al	Deutsches Leucht u. Signalmittelwerk, Dr Feistel A.G., Berlin-Charlottenburg
am	Otto Eberhardt Patronenfabrik, Gustloff Werke, Hirtenberg, Niederdonau
an	Beuttenmuller & Cie G.m.b.H., Metallwarenfabrik, Bretten, Baden
ap	Otto Eberhardt Patronenfabrik, Ronsdorf Werk, Wuppertal
asb	Deutsche Waffen u. Munitionsfabriken A.G., Berlin-Borsigwalde
asr	HAK (Hanseatisches Kettenwerk G.m.b.H.), Hamburg
auu	Patronenhulsen u. Metallwarenfabrik A.G., Werk Rokycany bei Pilsen
aux	Polte, Werk Magdeburg
auy	Polte, Werk Gruneberg
auz	Polte, Werk Arnstadt
axq	Erfurter Laden-Industrie, Erfurt-Nord
bqt	Pyrotechnische Fabrik Eugen Müller, Wein (Vienna)
byc	Aug. Klonne, Bruckenbau Anstalt, Dortmund



Stampings on the slide of this P.38 show that it was made in 1943 at Carl Walther plant in Zella-Mehlis. Many other manufacturers made P.38's

cg	Finower Industrie G.m.b.H., Finow, Mark
ch	Fabrique Nationale d'armes d'guerre, Herstal, Liege, Belgium
cxm	Gustav Genschow & Co., A.G., Berlin
czo	Heeres Zeugamt, Geschosswerkstatt, Koenigsberg
dbg	Dynamit A.G. (formerly Alfred Nobel & Co.), Werk Duneberg
dma	Heeres-Munitions Anstalt, Geschosswerkstatt, Zeithain
dnf	Rheinisch-Westfalische Sprengstoff A.G., Werk Nürnberg-Stadeln
dnh	Rheinisch-Westfalische Sprengstoff A.G., Werk Durlach
dph	I.G. Farbenindustrie A.G., Werk Autogen, Frankfurt am Main, Greisheim
dye	Erste Alpenlandische Pyrotechnik, Ed. Pitschmann & Co., Innsbruck, Austria
ecc	Pyrotechnische Fabrik, Oskar Lunig, Mohringen (Fildern)
ecd	Earl Lippold, Pyrotecha Fabrik, Wuppertal-Eberfelde

edg	J. A. Henckels Zwillingswerk, Solingen
edq	Deutsche Waffen u. Munitionsfabriken A.G., Lubeck-Schlutup
eeg	Herman Weihrauch, Gewehr u. Fahrradteilefabrik, Zella-Mehlis, Thuringia
eel	Metallwarenfabrik (formerly H. Wissner A.G.), Werk Brotterode, Hessen-Nassau
eem	Selve-Kornbiegel Dornheim A.G., Munitionsfabrik, Sömmerda, Saxony
eeo	Deutsche Waffen u. Munitionsfabriken A.G., Werk Posen
emp	Dynamit A.G. (formerly Alfred Nobel & Co.), Werk Empelde
eom	H. Huck Metallwarenfabrik, Nurnberg
fa	Mansfeld A.G., Hettstedt, Sudhars
faa	Deutsche Waffen u. Munitionsfabriken A.G., Karlsruhe
fd	Stolberger Metallwerke A.G. (formerly Asten, Lynen & Schleicher), Stolberg
fde	Dynamit A.G. (formerly Alfred Nobel & Co.), Werk Forde
fva	Draht u. Metallwarenfabrik G.m.b.H., Salzwedel
gtb	J. F. Eisfeld Pulver und Pyrotechnische Fabriken, Guntersberge
ha	Metallwarenfabrik, Truenbritzen G.m.b.H., Werke Seabaldushof
ham	Dynamit A.G. (formerly Alfred Nobel & Co.) Werk Hamm
has	Pulverfabrik Hasloch, Hasloch am Main
hgs	W. C. Gustav Burmester Pyrotechn Fabrik u. Signalmittelwerk, Hamburg
htg	Polte Werke, Duderstadt
jtb	S. A. Tauavo, Geneva, Switzerland
k	Luch & Wagner, Suhl, Thuringia
kam	Hasag Eisen u. Metallwerke G.m.b.H., Werk Skarzysko-Damienna
kfg	Sarajevo State Arsenal
klb	Kiesselbach L JFE's plant
krl	Dynamit A.G. (formerly Alfred Nobel & Co.), Werk Krummel
kry	Lignose Sprendstoffwerke G.m.b.H., Werk Kruppamuhle
kun	Werk-Kunigunde
kye	Intreprinderile Metalurgie, Pumitra Voina Societate Anonima Romana, Fabrica de Armament, Brasow, Roumania
kyn	Astra, Fabrica Romana de Vagoene, Motoane Armament si Munitiuni, Brasow, Roumania
kyp	Rumanisch-Deutsche Industrie u. Handels A.G., Bucharest
ldb	Deutsche Pyrotechnische Fabriken G.m.b.H., Berlin-Malchow
ldc	Deutsche Pyrotechnische Fabriken G.m.b.H., Cleebronn
ldn	Deutsche Pyrotechnische Fabriken G.m.b.H., Neumarkt
lge	Kugelfabrik Schulte & Co., Tente, Rhineland
lkm	Munitionsfabriken (formerly Sellier & Bellot), Prague
nbe	Hasag, Eisen und Metallwerke G.m.b.H. (Werk Apparatbau Tschenstochau)
nfx	RWS Munitionsfabrik G.m.b.H., Warsaw-Prague
P-28	Polte, Madgeburg
P-120	Polte, Madgeburg
P-131	Polte, Madgeburg
P-154	VIII 91
P-315	Polte, Madgeburg
P-370	IX W Polte, Madgeburg
P-405	Polte, Madgeburg
P-490	Polte, Madgeburg
qve	Carl Walther, Zeila Mehlis, Thuringia
va	I Kabel u. Metallwerke Neumeyer A.G., Nürnberg
wa	Hugo Schneider, A.G., Lampenfabrik Leipsig (SAA)
wb	Hugo Schneider, A.G., Werk Berlin-Kopenick
wc	Hugo Schneider, A.G., Werk Meuschlwitz, Thuringia
wd	Hugo Schneider, A.G., Werk Taucha
we	Hugo Schneider, A.G., Werk Langeweisen
wf	Hasag Eisen u. Metallwerke G.m.b.H. Werke Kielce
wg	Hugo Schneider, A.G., Werk Attenburg, Attenburg
wh	Hugo Schneider, A.G., Werk, Eisenach
wj	Hugo Schneider, A.G., Werk, Oberweissbach
wk	Hugo Schneider, A.G., Werk, Schlieben
42	Mauser Werke
S 42	Mauser Werke
S 42G	Mauser Werke
237	Mauser Werke
660	Mauser Werke
925	Mauser Werke
y	Jaudpatronen, Zundhutchen u. Metallwarenfabrik A.G., Budapest, Werk Nagyteteny

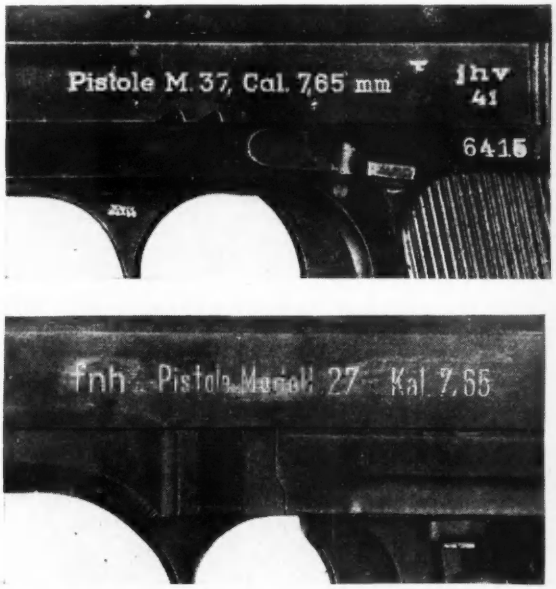
While the foregoing codes cover arms and ammunition made during the Hitler era, it must be remembered that stocks of arms were seized in every country which the Germans overran. Furthermore, the Germans themselves turned up during World War II large quantities of World War I weapons which were not known to be in existence.

Where manufacturer's name, arsenal stamp, or crest is encountered on an arm, it ordinarily indicates a pre-War II arm.

Prominent German Commercial Arms Makers

Identifying most German sporting arms as to caliber is an almost impossible task without an examination of the weapon itself by a qualified gunsmith.

The following list deals only with makers or assemblers of arms of known quality. This list covers arms manufactured



Above, Hungarian P.37, made in Budapest and dated 1941. Below is Czechoslovakian 1927 model, made in Prague. No date is marked on it

for or distributed by the former great German commercial and export firm, G. Genschow of Baden. Before the war this firm distributed quality German sporting products of Germany and Austria to South America. This firm did not handle junk—their arms were adequately proofed, and their hallmark carried the assurance of value received for money paid.

Makes Manufactured for or Distributed by Genschow:

Adamy Gebrüder	E. Korner & Co.
I. G. Anschütz	F. W. Kebler
Astora (A BSW product)	Fritz Kies & Co.
BSW (Berlin-Suhler-Waffen-und Fahrzeugwerke)	Emil Langenham
Bock Drilling (A trade name of S. Gunther)	Max Lepper
Bolte & Anschütz	August Lüneburg
Büscher-Gewehre	Manteuffel & Co.
Burgsmuller & Söhne	I. Meffert
G. C. Dornheim A.G.	B. Merkel
Emil Eckoldt	E. A. Merkel
Erma (A trade name for B. Geipel at Erfurt)	Merkel Gebrüder
F. L. (Fr. Langenhan)	O. Merkel & Co.
Funk & Co.	F. Neuman
Christoph Funk	B. Paatz
F&L (Franken & Lunenschlos)	Gebr. Rempt.
Gecado (A trade name of G. C. Dornheim)	Sauer & Söhne
Geco (A trade name for quality arms made for Genschow specifically)	A Seeber
Greifelt & Co.	Sempert & Krieghoff

C. G. Haenel
Helfricht & Fischer
Herold (A trade name for Franz Jäger)
Fr. Wm. Heym
Heym Gebrüder
Max Heym
H. W. Z. (Hersteller Weihrauch)
F. Jäger & Co.
Karl Walther
O. Will
Zentrum (A trade name for F. Neuman)
A. Ziegenhan
Simson & Co.
Albert Suhn
F. Schmidt
August Schüler
Stotz & Goessl
F. Strempl
Venus-waffenwerk
E. Schmidt & Haberman
H. Burgsmuller & Söhne
W. Brenneke
Teschner & Co.
Mauser
V. Chr. Schilling

Any weapon bearing names or trademarks listed above was of sufficiently good quality to warrant marketing by G. Genschow. Beyond pointing out that this firm knew the German manufacturing market intimately and was one of the world's greatest gun houses, it is impossible at this time to do more than guess at the quality of any specific German sporting weapon.

While all popular German magazine rifles stem from either Mauser or Mannlicher patents, it is impossible to list all the modifications or the calibers. In a country of gunsmiths such as was Germany, any type of alteration of a firearm or any combination of shotgun, rifle, or pistol may be encountered.

A truly definitive work on firearms identification is an utterly impossible objective. It is possible to catalogue and describe all the important and all the practical mechanical systems of firearms operations, but it will never be possible to list all the actual arms themselves.

The foregoing codes, lists, and notes cover the greater percentage of arms brought to this country from Germany since the war. If you have one of the rifles or pistols identified, it does not necessarily follow that you have a fine weapon. If your rifle or pistol is *not* included in these lists, it does not necessarily follow that you have a poor weapon. The listings are a *guide* which we hope to amplify in the future with your assistance; they are the most complete ever published, but there are no illusions about their being definitive.

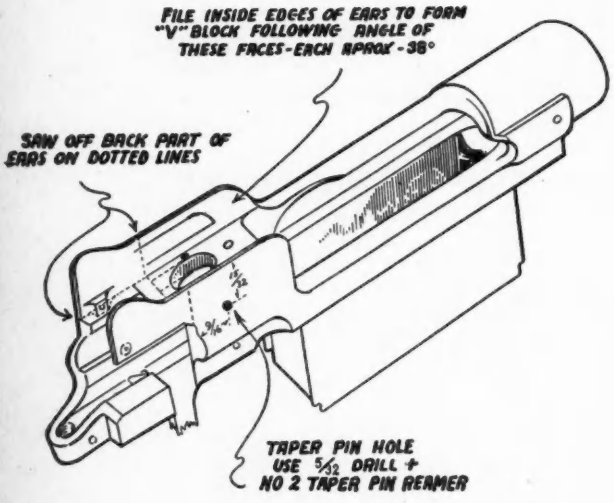
Once you have identified your weapon, the next question will probably be, is it a good one? To that there is only one answer. Let a competent gunsmith decide. Use only recommended ammunition. If you have the arm converted, hold the pressure *below* that for which the arm was originally designed. ◆ ◆ ◆

"The Ears Have It"

(Continued from page 25)

The finished work should allow slight clearance between the lug and the floor and sides of the receiver-bridge cavity. But there must be positive contact between the rear-mount ring and the upper portions of the ear slopes on both sides (Figure 12). This is one of the features that makes the mount sturdy, rough-'n'-ready for any kind of shooting.

When the rear mount is bedded down securely to the desired sighting picture, it's ready to become a part of the receiver. The scope is mounted (Figures 13 and 14), and the mount is fixed firmly into place with a C-clamp. Make a final check of


FILE INSIDE EDGES OF EARS TO FORM "V" BLOCK FOLLOWING ANGLE OF THESE FACES-EACH APROX - 38°
SAW OFF BACK PART OF EARS ON DOTTED LINES
TAPER PIN HOLE USE 5/32 DRILL + NO 2 TAPER PIN REAMER

the sighting picture. Then, a five-thirty-seconds-inch hole is drilled into the receiver bridge, passing through the rear-mount lug and out on the other side of the receiver. Without removing the C-clamp, this hole is tapered with a No. 2 taper reamer.

Select a taper pin that will seat tightly in the hole. It should be driven in with a brass punch until the rear mount is pulled down solidly. Then, before cutting the taper pin to correct length, check bore sighting again, this time without the C-clamp. If the pin is driven in tightly, the sighting picture

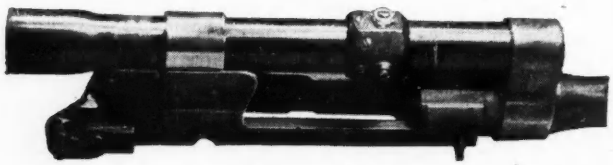


Figure 14: Here the rear mount and scope are in place, ready for the C-clamp and the drilling operation. Note that scope is not yet positioned vertically

should be "on the button." The taper pin is trimmed off flush to the receiver on the small end, but about an eighth inch short on the big end, so it will recess in the hole on the side from which it's driven.

This length of the hole is tapped and a filler plug made to fit the section. The filler plug acts as a positive retainer for the taper pin.

In the final application of the rear mount to the scope, it was felt that some method was needed to assure a vertical alignment of the cross hairs over the bore. This would be true of a post-type reticule, too. The mounted scope was leveled and an eighth-inch hole drilled down through the rear-mount ring and the scope barrel. To keep metal chips from the scope elements, the eyepiece was removed and a wad of soft paper pushed into the scope, to a point just beyond the drilling operation. The hole was threaded—both rear-mount and scope-barrel sections—to take an 8-32 screw. The screwhead was trimmed down to conform with the curve of the rear-mount ring.

When your scope is finally mounted in that made-to-order channel in the Enfield receiver bridge, there's no question about stability and strength, protection and beauty. It's a good job because "the ears have it!" ◆ ◆ ◆

FIRST ONE THING . . .

. . . AND THEN ANOTHER. BEING A HOBBYIST'S WIFE HAS ITS BAD MOMENTS . . . AND GOOD ONES

MY LIFE AS THE WIFE of a "hobbyist" has been so full of adventure, exasperation, hilarious experiences, and interest that I feel the need of warning other gals about to embark on the sea of matrimony: "Beware of the man with a hobby!"

Fortunately, I escaped the amateur photography, phonograph record, auto-racing, and radio-experimenting hobbies. Those phases in my husband's life were before my time, thank heaven. I entered into family life at about the golf era. Being young and chipper, I managed to gallop about a golf course with the greatest of ease for the period that golf held my spouse's life in its clutches. But when the fishing bug attacked him, something had to happen. Getting up at 4 A.M. to board a smelly fishing barge with a gang of equally smelly natives, and to sit in meek obedience, the silence unbroken by women's babble, while squirming monsters were hauled over the side was not my idea of a big time. Fortunately, seasickness soon overcame me and I was relegated to the pier. My husband pursued that hobby

alone for several months, until he became interested in building a trailer. While it was being constructed, week ends were passed in stubborn acceptance of the inevitable. I sat by in admiration of his great and wonderful prowess as a carpenter and was constantly assured that when it was finished we would have a high time gadding about the country.

In due time the trailer was completed and we hied ourselves off to the wilds in our homemade home to enjoy nature's beauties. Our first expedition was to a peaceful spot in the beautiful live oaks beside a quiet expanse of lake.

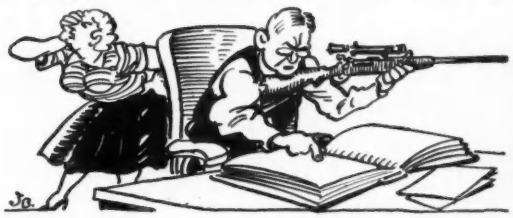
We retired early, tired from the trip. But after wedging my 140 pounds into the bow end of that quonset hut affair, I discovered my husband had neglected to install my cute little bunk bed's vital insides—the springs! "Oh, well," thinks I, "this is camping and while I wait for my weary bones to caress these hard boards I will listen to the sounds of nature." It was grand! Coyotes howling in the distance, hoot owls hooting, wind blowing in the treetops on a starry night away from it all! But what was it that woke me? Sounded like someone driving stakes in the ground—perhaps we were going to have neighbors after all. Suddenly the air was rent with the shrieks and moans of a distressed animal. Or was it?

Oh, no! Some moron had brought his great-grandfather's old phonograph to this lonely spot, and I was carried back to 1900 when I stood before the morning glory horn and watched the cylinders go round. But surely they didn't have boogie woogie in those days! Of course, this infernal machine must be a radio, playing at 2 A.M., and I was back in civilization again listening to blues singers three beats behind the band and the horrors of boogie! Bottles clinked merrily and the barbershop quartet struck up with "Sweet Adeline." Ah me. Our beautiful camp was violated. No longer could we hear the birds and rippling brook.

Well, anyway, the trailer craze lasted a year or so, and my husband suddenly took an interest in music—the banjo. He bought himself one of those monstrosities, and even took music lessons and joined a ham orchestra. I spent hours on end accompanying him on the piano and long after I slept I could still hear the plunk plunk while he battled with sevenths and fifths.

Well, this wore off and he traded the banjo for a shotgun. Then began the real battle. I tramped over miles of desert hunting jack rabbits and began to understand the term "blood and guts." I cooked so many of these creatures I began to develop a slight leap and my ears grew longer. I got so adept at preparing them, I could even disguise the flavor until they actually tasted good. After tramping and riding countless miles trailing these miniature kangaroos with my dear spouse, the gas shortage came along and rescued me.

However, the shooting bug was upon him—he still clung to his guns. He hunted up a place closer to home, made a deal with a rancher to fix him up a range, and the target shooting decade began. My job was to sit in a barren sunbaked spot gazing at the rear end of a belly-shooting fanatic. During these days I amused myself occasionally with tin can shooting and learned, after my cheek was shoved up where my forehead should be, that a .30-'06 packs a bigger wallop than a .22. My husband got so darn good at this target shooting, he decided to learn all there was to learn about it, so nights he pored over all the sporting magazines and books on ballistics he could find. He



soon became the best armchair deer hunter in the country.

He and his friends would sit until the wee hours in his back room, lovingly named the "boar's nest." It looked like one. Sometimes I thought there would be a fist fight over the relative merits of the magnum something-or-other and another well-known weapon. But the arguments were friendly, I guess, although one of my husband's sportsman friends had the audacity to refer to him as a nut. What my husband didn't learn about windage, mirage, weapons of all makes and sizes, wasn't in the books, so he began to get ideas about going into competitive shooting. Finally he hied himself over to the Glendale Rifle Club and joined up.

Now, instead of gazing at only my husband's rear anatomy,

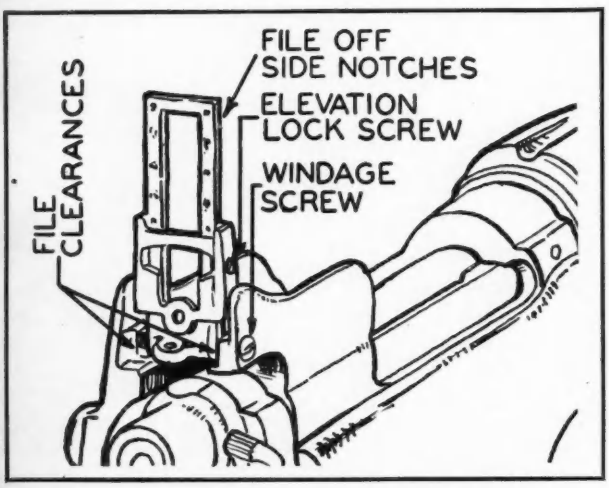
I found I had to gaze at fifty rear anatomies! But I found other wives with insane husbands over there, too, and together we consoled ourselves. The fever grew on him. Soon I began polishing up medals for this and that, and the boar's nest began to take on the look of a college boy's room. Cobwebs hung over the array of shells on display, guns in racks, and all the equipment necessary to his trade, but I was not allowed to move one thing an inch under penalty of death. One day when I dared to write with my finger "DIRT" across the barely visible mirror, he knocked 2,000 shells over cleaning it off. After that we were not on speaking terms for a week.

Oh, well . . . I am afraid the gun hobby is here to stay, so I can afford now to grow old gracefully. There will probably be no more "keeping-up-with-father" gyrations required of me. It's been a pain in the neck in some ways, and a lot of fun in others. And I can always console myself, thinking how awful it would have been if he had taken up deep sea diving.—MRS. ELBERT M. BLADES.

ENFIELD REAR SIGHT CONVERSION

WITH TWO .30 CALIBER SPORTERS in the gunrack when my Enfield arrived, I decided to keep it 'as issued' for qualification shooting—except for one important detail. That detail was the rear sight. I wanted windage and elevation adjustments, which the issue sight lacked.

I planned to do the job of providing an adjustable sight in my "workshop"—the kitchen table in an apartment house. This necessarily restricted the number and type of tools which could be used. To copy one of the commercial sights was out of the question since that would require machine shop facilities. Therefore, I went back to the reliable '03 Springfield sight for a basic design.



First I tackled the manner in which I could get elevation control and, if possible, arrange it so that I could use a sight micrometer. This was relatively simple. The rear sight was completely disassembled and the right side of the leaf filed sufficiently to remove the range notches. The markings on the face were left for reference. The sight catch pinhole lug was filed off and a small piece of steel fitted into the recess and along the slide. This piece was silver-soldered into place (the range burner furnished the heat) to give a solid block where the catch was formerly located. This was filed to keep the new width from exceeding the over-all width of the original slide. A 6 x 32 tapping to accommodate an Allen setscrew (recessed hex or slotted head) was provided far enough up the side of the slide so that it would clear the sight guard when the slide was down and the leaf in a vertical position. The recess in the base of the Allen screw was ground flat to prevent marring the side of the leaf when tight. The top of the Allen screw, when in place, must not project beyond the side of the slide. A knurled knob could have been provided to lock the slide, but remember that I was working with everyday equipment. As a final touch, the original large peep hole was soldered closed and then redrilled smaller, to my favorite size. The slide and leaf were reassembled.

Now to put on (or to take off) a bit of elevation I loosen the Allen screw, move the slide accordingly, and then resecure the screw.

It is possible to use to good advantage a sight micrometer similar to the old Lyman one. The original Lyman is just a bit too long. But if you have one and want to chop it off, that's your business. I made a gadget from a piece of flat stock and a machine screw, using a nut for a lock, that does the same job. If you make a similar gimmick and use it often enough, you will learn how much twist is necessary to give the movement you want without using graduations or clicks.

This is how I solved the next problem of windage adjustment. The joint bolt hole was carefully tapped 6 x 32 all the way through. To do this, first drill through with a No. 36 drill to prepare for tapping. The leaf is held in position by a boss on the inside of each of the guards. Remove about one-sixteenth inch from the inside face of this boss. The more of this boss you take off, the more windage adjustment you may have, provided the leaf does not touch the guards. I found one-sixteenth inch enough for my use. You will also find it necessary, as I did, to file the top of the receiver slightly to provide clearance for the detent faces. Otherwise, when the leaf is off to one side or the other you will not be able to lower the leaf to battle position. The old rear sight joint holes in the guards were drilled with a No. 27 drill to provide clearance for a 6 x 32 bolt. A steel 6 x 32 machine screw one and one-quarter inches long was passed through the right guard, threaded through the leaf and the left guard. A spring washer was placed in the recess in the outside of the left sight guard. The old slotted nut of the joint bolt was tapped for 6 x 32, screwed on the projecting thread, secured, and the end of the bolt was cut off and trimmed flush. The sight base spring was replaced to hold the leaf in position.

Now if windage adjustments are necessary, a slight turn of the bolt with a screw driver will move the leaf along the thread with a corresponding movement of the peep. If you want a fancy job, use a knurled knob instead of the old slotted nut. Caution—put the knob on the left side of the receiver so it will not interfere with the bolt.—ARTHUR W. WEILER.

The Old Coach

SHOOTING THE FREE RIFLE

A FREE RIFLE, BROADLY SPEAKING, is any rifle that may be fired from the shoulder. It is of any caliber, any weight, any length barrel, any style stock, any *safe* triggers, any sights. It may have a palm rest, levels on the barrel, and prongs on the buttplate. It may be loaded from the breech or muzzle with any load you decide is the best medicine for that particular rifle. It may be built on a plain or highly engraved single-shot lever action, or on any other type including the common bolt-type actions. The rifle is always a single shot. And each one has an intriguing individuality. Let there be one or more free rifles in the rack at any tournament and you can't help but note the interest those rifles create. Unlike the ordinary factory-built rifle, which is exactly like every other rifle of the same model and make, the free rifle is always individual. For this simple reason free rifles are not easy to obtain, few bona fide free rifles are for sale by their owners, and today no American manufacturer makes such an arm.

Free rifle shooting teaches the rifleman what many old-timers called the center hold. Because of the manner in which a free rifle is held and aimed, and built, the sway and bob of the muzzle is slowed down to such an extent that it hardly exists when an experienced free rifleman is behind the butt. There is none of that disconcerting pitching about over the bullseye that is commonplace with most of us when shooting regulation offhand—and praying that the cross hairs will settle down and cross the ten-ring at a walk. There is so much more to the rifle itself, with its attachments limited only to the skill and ability of the maker. Because of these things free rifle shooting is the postgraduate course of all rifle shooting. And when we realize that the vast majority of free rifles in use today are small bores, chambered for the .22 rim-fire Long Rifle cartridge and being shot at all distances from fifty feet up to 200 yards outdoors, there is no valid reason many, many more shooters should not be playing this deeply interesting phase of the rifle-shooting game.

Observation shows that the majority of small-bore riflemen firing in free rifle events do so with the regular small-bore match rifle as is, except that the rifle is usually rested on the finger tips as provided for in the regular NRA approved variation of the standard military offhand position. This is not real free-rifle procedure. Such fumbling of the ball is not what free-rifle events should demonstrate, simply because it is impossible to develop the possibilities of free-rifle technique with any other than a free rifle. The main reason is: a free rifle is not held to the shoulder as is done when shooting the regulation military or hunting offhand position. A free rifle is balanced on the palm rest (or tips of the fingers) and the lower prong of the buttplate. The right hand has nothing to do with holding the rifle except that some shooters use the right thumb, lying along the right side of the small of the stock, to steady the piece against the cheek. The job of the right hand is to release the trigger. At the instant you clutch the pistol grip and *hold* the rifle to the shoulder, you defeat the theory behind the free rifle. Even though you may not own a free rifle, there is no good reason why you can't doll up your pet match rifle to do the job, and at the same time in no way hurt it for regular small-bore position shooting.

First, it will be wise to keep the rifle weight under ten pounds; stay away from the fourteen- and sixteen-pound variety until you know the fundamentals. If your barrel is too short to give a muzzle-heavy balance, get a piece of Shelby tubing eight inches to a foot long, of a diameter to fit the barrel two or three inches down from the muzzle. Fit it to the barrel over tape rings. If barrel length is right but the barrel too light, tape strips of lead to the barrel until you get the balance needed. Three more things you must have. First of these is a safe, snappy plain trigger, pulling around two pounds; that is, if you can't have a single- or double-set trigger. You can use a good three-pound pull, but there are a few good match rifles that won't safely hold a lighter pull. Next, while you can support the rifle on your finger tips, resting on a forearm block, you should have a palm rest simply because you will do better work with one. And last, you must have at least a lower prong on the buttplate. Regular free rifles usually have top and bottom prongs, but in reality the bottom one is the important one, because (and I repeat) the free rifle is not held, it is balanced between the lower prong under your right arm and the palm rest sitting on the heel of your left hand. The palm rest should be attached to the forearm to the rear of the balance point of the rifle. That is to say that if it were not for the prong under your arm, the muzzle would tip down with the palm rest acting as a hinge. When fitting a prong to one of these straight-stocked rifles, locate it from an inch or even two inches below the belly line of the stock, to allow the stock to rise so the comb and your cheek will meet when your head is up. Your cheek must support the stock.

The palm rest usually consists of a flat disc or ball of wood at the end of a rod. It should be adjustable for length. The reason for this is that the free rifle is leveled on the target by the adjustment of the palm rest. If the target is high, lengthen the palm rest; if low, shorten it. The left elbow should rest on the hipbone and the forearm and palm rest should be as nearly in the same line as possible, that line extending down the left leg to the floor. If your hipbone doesn't come up to your elbow, hug the left arm to the body and gain all support possible. Your head is held up, your right elbow should be comfortably high but if the tip is below the line of the shoulder it will be all right. You must be comfortable, with absolutely no muscles straining.

When on the firing line, point your rifle at the target and set the palm rest. Then raise the rifle in position and with eyes closed line on the target. If high or low, adjust the palm rest. If off right or left, shift your feet until the cross hairs quarter the bull. If you have set triggers, learn how to use them before expecting to do any good shooting. They are harder to operate than a plain trigger.

When you take up the free rifle, you may be disgusted for a while. But remember, it is not a tin can plinking game. If you have good coaching and really want to make headway, you can do the job. It's that kind of a game. ♦ ♦ ♦

POWDER SMOKE: THE NEWS DESK . . . READERS COMMENTS

TWELFTH NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE CONFERENCE

On the 3rd, 4th, and 5th of February, San Antonio was host to over 700 leading game conservation experts and many outdoor writers interested in game management technique.

Senator Frederic C. Walcott, ex-chairman of the Senate Wildlife Committee, opened the Conference and introduced speakers A. M. Day, Director of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service; L. F. Watts, Chief of the U. S. Forest Service; and H. H. Bennett, Chief of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service. Bennett emphasized the seriousness of the present economic position resulting from the nation's unwillingness to practice sound conservation measures.

Representatives from Canada and Mexico presented papers dealing with wildlife trends in their countries. Dr. Harrison F. Lewis, Superintendent of Wildlife Protection, Ontario, outlined in a Canadian game animal inventory the list of North American animals approaching extinction. This list was shockingly large.

The high light of the three-day program was the consideration of North America's highly critical migratory waterfowl situation. The picture presented by Dr. Clarence Cottam, Assistant Director of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, was far from cheerful, as evidenced by his lecture title, "Waterfowl at the Crossroads."

Audubon President John H. Baker made a brave stand for optimism with his talk, "Wildfowling is Not Necessarily on the Way Out," but this false encouragement was soon canceled by his fears of big-money interests preventing all efforts at maintaining the waterfowl population levels essential to future duck shooting.

In summarizing and evaluating the reports brought before the Conference, Dr. Aldo Leopold, Dean of Wildlife Conservation, emphasized the urgency of giving immediate attention to the waterfowl situation.

Juniors qualifying for the highest NRA Junior award, Distinguished Rifleman, can now obtain this newly designed medal. Winners of this qualification are entitled to one year's free Senior membership upon reaching eighteen.

NEW CLASSIFICATION PROCEDURE

Prior to 1947 a shooter's classification was computed near the end of one calendar year and published at the beginning of the next. To anyone firing regularly in competition, this meant only one classification change each year, provided his new average had materially increased or decreased from that of the previous year.

Now, however, a new method of classifying tournament competitors is in effect. As match results are received in NRA Headquarters, scores fired over the recognized courses will be added to the shooter's master classification record. After the addition of twelve scores to a master record, that shooter's classification will be computed and, if the change in his average warrants, another classification card will be issued him. The names and new averages of all shooters who change class will be published regularly in *Tournament News*.

THIRD ANNUAL NEW YORK MARINE CORPS LEAGUE INTERSCHOLASTIC RIFLE TOURNAMENT

The Far Rockaway High School rifle team of Coach Richie Sierer scored a double victory February 22, 1947 at the City College of New York rifle range when the Sea Horses won the Gold Trophy awarded by Greater New York Detachment of the Marine Corps League and the City College ROTC Gold Cup. This was the second time in three years that the Rockaway boys won the Gold Trophy in the Marine Corps meet and the third straight year they won the City College ROTC Gold Cup.

Far Rockaway scored 901 in the four-position team event, nosing out Jamaica High School of Queens who placed second with 889. Abraham Lincoln High School of Brooklyn, winners in 1946, placed third with a score of 880. Fourth place went to Brooklyn Tech High School for their score of 855; fifth was Far Rockaway's second team with 806.

Jack Busse of Jamaica High School took high individual honors of the day with 49 prone, 48 sitting, 45 kneeling, and 47 offhand, for a total of 189.

Fifteen teams fired this match in spite of a snowstorm which made transportation difficult. Much credit for the success of the meet must be given to Colonel J. H. Marsh, Infantry, Commanding Officer of the City College ROTC unit, and M/Sgt. Stephen Perkowski, rifle coach of the City College, for the use of their range for the meet.

OFFHAND POSSIBLE

A perfect offhand score, fired at 75 feet in a recent gallery tournament, was made by Charles C. Barros, Jr., of the Sharon Fish and Game Club, Sharon, Mass. Mr. Barros, who consistently scores 90 or better offhand, was a member of the winning Hearst Trophy team in 1946, winner of the 1941 Championship Cup

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of the Massachusetts State Guard, and the Deborah Sampson Trophy in September, 1946, and has been awarded fifteen medals, nine for first place, for placing in offhand matches.

A small-arms instructor while in the Air Force, Mr. Barros is now captain of the Sharon Club rifle team, a member of the pistol team, and Executive Officer of the South Shore Pistol and Rifle League. He uses a "medium priced" .22 target rifle and standard Long Rifle ammunition.

THE HIGH COST OF A TURKEY SHOOT

Over five hundred service personnel and civilian employees of the Naval Air Station at Alameda, California, ran up a terrific bill at the butcher shop recently when the Naval Welfare Department and the Civilian Employees Welfare and Recreation unit cosponsored a turkey shoot—and incidently put the sponsors in debt. One hundred and eighty-four turkeys were awarded shooters for hitting the eight-inch bull at one hundred yards offhand with the .30-'06. An entry fee of $1.50 entitled each competitor to three shots at the target. Figure your entry fees—and the output in turkeys—and see what the result was to the treasuries.

However the cosponsors deemed their money well spent. They pointed out that the shoot was not designed to make money but to provide an activity of interest to the station personnel. The number of entries in the match emphasizes that value.

STOLEN GUNS

Lost or stolen from Benicia Arsenal, Benicia, California: six 1903 U. S. Rifles, Model A-4, .30 caliber, without scopes: No. 3417115, No. 3417400, No. 3419379, No. 3407668, No. 3414640, No. 3410281. Notify Commanding Officer, Benicia Arsenal, Benicia, California.

Colt OP No. 657337, King full ramp sight, Buchanan short action, Stag grip. Pann Mallas, 4422 Lemp Ave., North Hollywood, California.

Liberal reward offered for the return of .30-30 Winchester carbine No. 869768, .22 cal. H.R. Model 922 No. 153783, and .32-20 single-action Colt pistol, No. 186495 on trigger head and No. 582 on cylinder. John Bakos, Hamilton, Colorado.

The following were stolen from the Rod & Gun Club of George Guy, 710 10th Avenue, Belmar, N. J., February 2, 1947: Walther 9mm. P-38 No. 5291; S & W U. S. Mod. 1917 .45 caliber pistol No. 21994; S & W Target .38 Special pistol No. 357874; H & R .32 caliber pistol; British Browning Mark 1 9mm. No. 2T6372; Walther 9mm. P-38 No. 4659; Colt .25 cal. pocket automatic No. 420302; Colt Official Police .38 Special No. 645656; .38 cal. Blank pistol Ziess German Army, 6 x 30 Binocular, German Army French 10 x 45 Binocular; Ziess German 4-power Rifle Scope; two pairs revolver grips, Colt and S & W; 10 Penknives; 10 Swedish style hunting knives; eight black and tan holsters; one dozen boxes .38 Special wadcutter ammunition; six boxes .45 pistol ammunition; six boxes .38 pistol ammunition; browning Belgian 9 mm. short (.380); S & W .32 cal. Revolver; Walther .32 cal. automatic; S & W Victoria Model Revolver V83446; Sauer-German .32 automatic; S & W .38 cal. Pocket Safety; H & R .22 cal. pistol; one handmade Mexican knife; and one Winchester flashlight 2 cell, chrome case. Any information notify Belmar Police Dept., Belmar, New Jersey.

Stolen from Goshen Sporting Goods Store, Goshen, Indiana: two H&R Sportsmans pistols, No. 85948 and No. 86032; one H&R "Regular" rifle No. 6285; one .22 cal. Remington Speedmaster No. 14378; and one .22 cal. Crosman No. 15816. Ralph R. Rein, Goshen Sporting Goods Store, Goshen, Ind.

Two Model 29 Savage .22 cal. repeaters, No. 60003 and No. 60275, stolen in transit from factory to Honolulu, T.H. W. C. Thom & Co., P.O. Box 1913, Honolulu 5, T. H.

One .22 cal. Mossberg Model 44. Reward for return or information leading to return to John L. Casner, 1508 Jackson Street, Red Bluff, California.

COMING EVENTS

The four classes of registered tournaments are indicated as follows:

AA—National Matches.
A—Regional Tournments.
B—State Championship or large district matches.
C—Local tournaments.
Un—Indicates tournaments that are not registered.

Tournaments requiring Advance Entries are indicated by **Adv** and tournaments that plan to limit the entries to a predetermined number are indicated by **Ltd.**

APRIL

5, North Carolina (C)—Third Annual Greensboro Indoor Rifle Tournament. Mrs. C. W. Ellner, Box 36, Greensboro.

12, California (C)—Gallery Pistol and Revolver (Night) Tournament. H. O. Peters, 706 Third St., San Rafael.

12-13, California (B)—California Small-bore Rifle Championships Tournament at Fresno. Russ Wisler, Box 637, Belmont.

12-13, Georgia (C)—South Atlantic Small-bore Spring Tournament. Charles P. Simon, Route 4, Box 84, Ogeechee Road, Savannah. Adv.

12-13, Indiana (B)—1947 Indoor Championship Rifle Matches at Indianapolis. Mrs. Waunelia Heise, 316 Warren Building, Michigan City.

13, Illinois (B)—Illinois State Gallery Pistol Championship Tournament. Thomas M. Blakemore, 5004 W. Huron St., Chicago.

13, Oregon (C)—Third Annual Registered Gallery Rifle Tournament. Mrs. Octavia B. Waddell, P. O. Box 247, Medford.

18-19, New Jersey (C)—First Annual April Gallery Rifle Tournament. Merrill S. Cottrell, 5 Caloris Avenue, Millville.

19-20, Oregon (B)—Ninth Annual Oregon Small-bore Rifle Gallery Championship Tournament at Hillsboro. Willis B. Miller, 1432 N. E. Liberty St., Portland.

20, Ohio (Un)—Ohio State Rifle Team Match at Columbus. John R. Lang, 3498 Meadow Ave., Cincinnati. Adv.

20, California (C)—Smallbore League Match at Richmond. Chilton DeWitt, 3701 Lincoln Ave., Oakland.

20, Texas (C)—Seventh Annual Small-bore Rifle Tournament. Marie B. Robertson, 1502 Broadway, Houston.

20, Wisconsin (C)—Falk Rifle Club Fifth Annual Tournament. Raymond L. Schmidt, 1571 South 29th St., Milwaukee.

20, Florida (C)—Florida West Coast Spring Rifle Tournament. L. W. Abrams, 705 Prospect Ave., Clearwater.

20, California (C)—San Francisco Police Monthly Pistol Tournament at Lake Merced. Emile J. Dutil, 324 16th Avenue, San Francisco.

20, D. C. (C)—National Cap. Gallery Pistol Tournament, at Washington, D. C. T. G. Arnold, 5308 41st Place, Hyattsville, Md. Adv-Ltd.

26-27, Pennsylvania (C)—Second Annual Gallery Pistol Revolver Tournament at Wilkinsburg. W. H. Riethmiller, 217 Koppers Bldg., Pittsburgh. Adv.

27, Massachusetts (UN)—Second Annual Powder Burners Festival. Harold Buck, 35 Richwood St., Framingham.

27, Oklahoma (C)—Magic Empire Small-bore Special Tournament. Frank M. Parks, Jr., 625 S. Elgin, Apt. 311, Tulsa.

27, Illinois (B)—Illinois State Championship Gallery Rifle Match. Thomas Blakemore, 5004 W. Huron St., Chicago.

MAY

3-4, California (B)—Western States Small-bore Rifle Championship Tournament at Richmond. Chilton DeWitt, 3701 Lincoln Ave., Oakland.

4, Pennsylvania (C)—Annual Philadelphia Area Spring Small-bore Tournament at Cold Point. W. H. Bahrenburg, 2006 E. Orleans St., Philadelphia.

10, California (C)—Gallery Pistol and Revolver (Night) Tournament. H. O. Peters, 706 Third St., San Rafael.

10-11, Pennsylvania (Un)—Annual Spring Muzzleloading Shoot at Shartlesville. Dr. James E. Hirtle, Jr., 27 S. Walnut St., Bath.

11, Tennessee (C)—Class C Pistol Tournament. Frank B. Hill, 2902 Snowden Road, Nashville.

11, Pennsylvania (C)—Eleventh Annual Spring Small-bore Rifle Tournament. Alfred M. Newhard, 111 E. Susquehanna St., Allentown, Ltd.

WANT TO SHOOT AGAINST THIS OUTFIT?

The Adobe Walls Junior Rifle Club of Los Angeles, California, has been very successful in competition recently, easily winning eleven matches. Mr. Gene Bunstine, instructor of the club, writes "We now find ourselves with no more worlds to conquer. Do you know of any other Junior Club that is looking for a match? We'd like to take them on."

Mr. Bunstine goes on to say, "We think we have the best team on the Pacific Coast. Maybe it would be good for us if some other team would take some of the wind out of our sails!"

Any junior team wishing to shoot a match against this club can reach Mr. Bunstine at Box 71, Pacific Palisades, California.

The club members and Instructor are pictured below:

RICOCHETS

WHERE IS YOUR WHISTLE?

Flushing, N. Y.

Editor:

Police Headquarters in New York City is urging private citizens to carry police whistles as a very effective way for a free American citizen to protect his life. The police force has been very short of men and is still so. The Sullivan Law has been fanatically upheld by these people as a sure cure for holdups and rapes, as well as a cure for general debility. The poor sheep, known as citizens who are not allowed to have guns, might get hurt. The pistol training of the new "rookies" consists of forty shots, and ten shots every four months thereafter.

If you are a member of a Democratic New Deal Club of long standing and know the right people, a note to the precinct Captain will get you a permit after six weeks of investigations and snooping. I wonder what would happen to a "sheep" who dared shoot one of the robbers dead, without first having a permit for his gun?

HARRY J. WOLLMAR.

UNCLE BEN

Oklahoma City, Okla.

Editor:

I am a 51-year-old member of NRA, a hunter and a fisherman. And, consequently, I have witnessed quite a number of incidents in "outdoor" pursuits (and have heard firsthand of others) that were unique, exceptional, and most interesting. Too, I have read of many others.

I am a trusting soul and generally listen to, and read of, the unusual experiences of others with complete confidence in the veracity of the narrator. But now the spell is broken—I've been disillusioned. I have just finished reading "Uncle Ben's Hobby," by Col. G. W. Outland, in the February RIFLEMAN.

C. D. FONVIELLE, SR.

Uncle Ben said that hunt disillusioned him too!—ED.

.270 VS. .30-'06

Oakland, Calif.

Editor:

I am getting sick of seeing the .270 Winchester rated over the .30-'06. Some of the people that write these articles will start off to say that the ballistics show too much shocking power for the .257 and .250-3000 and that actually it takes more weight and a larger bullet to kill cleanly. Then they will turn right around and try to compare the 130 grain .270 bullet with the ? .30-'06.

You published a story by Mr. Edmund Waters in your January issue. He carries on well to the point where he states that the .270 sighted for 200 yards hits 7.5 inches low at 300 yards. Then he states that the .30-'06 sighted for 200 yards hits 11 inches low at 300 yards. He also says that the 130 grain .270 is effective in a 16-inch area and the .30-'06 is effective in 12 inches.

If he would check his tables he would see that the .270—130 grain has a trajectory of five inches at 300 yards, energy at 100 yards of 2,395. The 150 grain has a trajectory of seven inches and energy of 2,065.

Now please compare these with the .30-'06. The 150 grain has a trajectory of six inches at 300 yards which is one inch less than the same weight in the .270. It has energy at 100 yards of 2,465 which is 405 ft.-lbs. better than the 150 grain .270 and 70 ft.-lbs. better than the 130 grain. Now the 180 has a seven-inch trajectory and the 220 has a nine-inch trajectory, so if any of these loads were sighted in at 300 yards, even without any Kentuckying you would still never be any more than 9.0 inches off and if you stayed with 180 grains or less, you would do as well as the 150 grain .270. Then anyone with half a brain knows that the extra size and weight do a lot better killing.

Wish you could get some one who really understands this matter to submit a good story and really tell the beginners the straight of it.

RAYMOND L. GROSS.

HINDLEG SHOOTING

Springfield, Ohio.

Editor:

Now I like the Old Coach, who hands out some excellent advice, but he and I don't see this offhand business eye to eye. In fact, his January 1947 article made me so blamed mad that I went to rifle practice the next night and shot a 97 offhand to prove he was wrong. I shoot a 13-pound Ballard but—take it easy—I weigh 218 pounds and, being a farmer, am not what you would call soft.

First: Throw away the chair. Now adjust the length of the sling so that there will be only a few ounces (I said ounces) tension when it is passed behind the elbow. The strap then runs from the front swivel straight down around the elbow to the rear swivel. Don't have any more tension than enough to keep it from sagging.

Second: Stand at about a 75 to 90 degree angle with the target. I started at about 45 degrees and each year I warp around a little farther. Space the feet as the Old Coach says, twelve to fourteen inches apart, not pigeontoed or pointed out, just comfortable.

Third: Put your glove on the floor in front of the feet and rest the muzzle of your gun on it. P. S. I use my right foot, but, son, the breech of that Ballard is open then. Don't do this with any bolt gun.

Fourth: Raise the gun off the glove, load (pointing towards targets), slip the left arm between the strap and gun as described above, and set the trigger guard on the left thumb with the first two or three fingers on the fore-end. Throw out your left hip like a shelf and rest your left elbow on it.

Fifth: Leave that trigger finger out of the guard; just park it alongside till you're ready.

Sixth: Now, as the Old Coach says, take that stretch (something like a rooster takes before crowing) and a good breath, raising the muzzle of the gun as you do so.

Seventh: Swing down to the target with the gun and jar the body down with a stiff-legged-sorta shake (this takes the air out of cushions in the spinal column and sets the elbow on the hip firmly).

The target should come into the sights natural like, and no attempt should be made to swing the rifle right or left to align it; as in prone, shift the whole body (this means moving the feet).

When the target picture looks good, slip the finger on the trigger, and increase pull. When it dosn't look good, don't ease clear up, just hold what you have and swing back on and again increase pressure. Repeat this until the shot gets off—and may Diana be with you.

Don't think you can hold and hold and hold and hit. You can train yourself to get a shot off in, well, we'll say in 3 to 10 seconds, and it doesn't wear you down as much. Seven and a half minutes is a short time, but I believe I can fire 20 shots in that time.

Eighth: Old Coach is right, follow through, then place your gun muzzle on the glove, resting, both arms down, and getting some blood back in your arms. Leave your feet where they were, they'll be there ready for the next shot. Pick up another shell and start all over again, just before where the rooster came in.

A. J. PROSSER.

RIFLEMAN COVERS

Aurora, Missouri.

Editor:

A very special request to you from me. Without telling anyone, print some cover pictures "right side to."

If we could only reverse the composition of our hotel bills, wouldn't that be nice?

As a photographer, engraver, and muzzleloader, I am *irked.*

JAMES V. MORROW.

Not all cover photos we receive will fit a right-side page. And since we are concerned with the appearance of the magazine as well as its contents, we feel justified in reversing a particularly good picture so it will give a balanced cover. Our hope is that readers will understand and appreciate what we are doing —and not take to standing on their heads in the attempt to fathom those we print "wrong side to." Of course if you wish to see how the pictures we print "right side to" would look if printed "wrong side to," you can hold them before a mirror.—ED.

DOPE BAG

Conducted by Major General J. S. Hatcher
Edwards Brown, Jr., A. H. Barr, J. L. Murphy, J. S. Rose

Krag Receivers · Neck Annealing · Parkerizing vs. Bluing · Accident with Jap Rifle · Defective 1918 Cartridges · 2-R Lovell · More Dope on Long Magazine .250-3000 Savage for Deer · New Scope Mount · No All-Purpose Rifle · Ammunition for Jap Rifles · Trade Dope

KRAG RECEIVERS

I have two Krag rifles that need rebarreling and while I'm at the job I should like to have the receivers heat-treated. I wish to learn to what physical characteristics the receivers should be brought. I have access to a laboratory where the work can be done well, provided I can give the proper specifications. Can you supply me with or direct me to a source of heat-treat specifications for the Krag action?

Is it sufficient to heat-treat the receiver only, or should the bolt be treated also at the locking lug?—C. R. ATKINSON, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Answer: We do not recommend reheat-treating receivers of the Krag rifle. If properly headspaced, these receivers are well adapted to the cartridge they were designed for. Reheat-treating cannot be depended on to make the receivers any better, and in many cases may weaken them by forming invisible cracks which will get worse as time goes on. Use your Krag with the receiver as it is. The Krag is a good gun.—J. S. H.

NECK ANNEALING

I have been making some 8 mm. cases out of 1940 National Match '06 cases and I am wondering if these cases should be annealed after resizing them to the smaller size. If they should be annealed, would you be so kind as to tell me the proper method of doing that job. I have a blowtorch and have been trying to anneal them by standing the resized cases in a pan of water that comes up about halfway on the case. I then put the torch to them and as fast as they become red hot I have been knocking them over into the water so they will cool quickly. Is that proper?—H. D. CROSBY, Joplin, Mo.

Answer: Any working of brass, such as drastic resizing, will harden it and give it a tendency to crack, while heating it to a temperature of a low red heat will soften it again. This is called annealing. The heating is the important thing, it makes no difference whether it is cooled rapidly or whether it is just allowed to cool off naturally. In resizing a .30-'06 to 8 mm., the working of the brass is not very severe and the annealing is not absolutely necessary.

The method you have used is satisfactory, but you might have the water come a little higher on the case; that is, nearly up to the shoulder. My own method is to hold the neck of the case for three to five seconds in melted lead which has been raised to a dull-red heat. I only dip the neck and shoulder of the case into the lead, then immediately drop the case into a can of water to prevent the heat from spreading to the cartridge head. Before doing this, I first dip the neck and shoulder into a volatile solution, such as Anti-Rust Oil, in order to prevent the lead from sticking to the brass.—A. H. B.

ACCIDENT WITH JAP RIFLE

About three months ago a 14-year-old boy got hold of a 7.7 mm. Jap rifle and proceeded to hammer the bolt closed on a 35 Remington and fired it. He did this four times and on the fifth shot the receiver "let go," driving some fragments into the front of his head. It lodged in the back of his skull and was removed after a delicate operation, but he is living now and seems to be in good health.

I had thought of having a resizing die made and resizing .250-3000 cases to fit the chamber of my .256 Japanese rifle, getting a mold and using cast bullets with reduced loads only. Is it worth the trouble or, in view of the accident mentioned above, should I go W. H. B. Smith one better and instead of hanging my gun on the wall, have the muzzle welded up and the bolt welded in?—HUGH P. PRINCE, Gladewater, Tex.

Answer: Thanks for your report on the accident with the Jap rifle. It is wonderful what people can think of. However, I don't think you need weld up the barrel of your Jap .256. You can make it safe simply by removing the firing pin so no one can fire it.

You will not be able to use the .250-3000 cases because they are larger in diameter than the Japanese cases. You could have the chamber relieved to accept the 6.5 mm. Mannlicher-Schoenauer and then use a light load.—A. H. B.

PARKERIZING VS. BLUING

Would you mind answering the following questions:

(1) Does a Parkerized finish on a gun in any way reduce or impair the accuracy or general effectiveness of the gun?

(2) Is Parkerizing a less durable finish for a gun, and does it afford less protection to metal parts than bluing?—BRUCE S. LANE, Kalamazoo, Mich.

Answer: The only thing against Parkerizing is the fact that it does not look as handsome as bluing.

Answering your two questions:

(1) Parkerizing does not reduce or impair the accuracy or effectiveness.

(2) Parkerizing is more durable as a finish and affords more protection than bluing.

Parkerizing was adopted some years ago by the Army because it affords far greater protection from rust than the blued finish that it succeeded.

To Parkerize a gun, it is placed in a solution which forms a gray crystalline deposit of phosphate salts on the surface. When it is first taken out of the bath, the metal is light gray. The black appearance is then produced by rubbing on a special dark-colored oil which penetrates the porous surface and together with the crystalline deposit forms a highly rust-resistant surface. It is far superior to bluing in every respect except appearance. In the Army where weapons have to withstand prolonged exposure to all kinds of weather conditions, rust resistance is of more importance than appearance, but for the match target shooter who has plenty of time and facilities to take care of his guns, the reverse is usually true.—J. S. H.

ARMOR-PIERCING AMMUNITION

I notice in the 1947 price list of material for sale through the Director of Civilian Marksmanship that the only ammunition listed for use in the .30-'06 is Armor Piercing, Aircraft Grade, Cal. .30 M2. Will you please advise what sort of stuff this is and whether it is suitable for use in the cal. .30 M1903A1 or M1903A3 rifles.—I. A. BUTCHER, Piney River, Va.

Answer: That armor-piercing aircraft grade .30 caliber M2 ammunition is suitable for use in any weapons chambered for the .30-'06 cartridge. Experience has indicated that this ammunition produces slightly more bore wear than the M2 cartridge ball but the difference is slight enough that it would take a considerable amount of testing to prove it. In other words, barrel wear is not excessive.

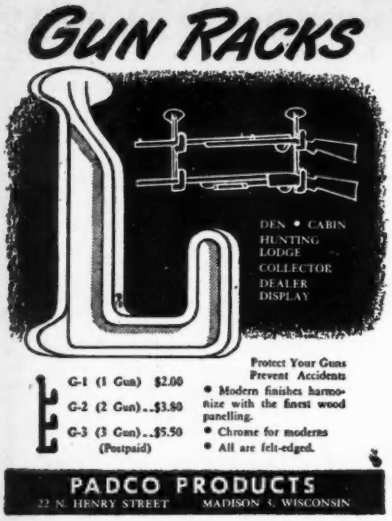
There has been some discussion as to relative accuracy of AP vs. ball. At short ranges, ball has the edge. Some shooters claim AP, owing to its heavier bullet, does better at the longer ranges. We'll have more on this later. Considering the variation in accuracy from lot to lot, however, there may be some lots of AP M2 which are more accurate than some lots of ball M2. There is one possible exception to the rule. In a worn barrel it is possible that AP M2 may show better accuracy on the average than ball.

Army specifications require that the mean radius (accuracy) for AP M2 ammunition at 500 yards be within 9.0 inches. The corresponding figure for M2 ammunition is 6.5 inches. These figures are for a 24 inch Mann barrel in a "V" block.

The centers of impact at various ranges should be very nearly the same for AP M2 and ball M2 ammunition.

The AP M2 bullet has a hardened steel core and a gilding metal bullet jacket. The bullet will weigh approximately 168.5 grains. There is an alternate bullet which weighs 164.0 grains.

"Aircraft grade" means little to the rifle shooter. This grade classification merely indicates that in testing the ammunition it was found to meet certain requirements for use in aircraft.—E. B.



DEFECTIVE 1918 CARTRIDGES

I am sending you this picture as a solemn warning to those who insist on using doubtful ammunition in any gun.

The Model 95 Winchester .30-'06 caliber shown in the photograph was in good order,

had just been cleaned and could not have had any obstruction in the bore as the bullet hit the target. The trouble was, as usual, not the fault of the gun but that of the shooter who persisted in a practice he knew was potentially dangerous. The 1918 case, which was used, separated at the head and the gun separated just behind the locking block, which was not found. Fortunately, the shooter was not injured, but he could just as well have been decapitated by that missing breechblock.—ROBERT WESTMORELAND, Gresham, Ore.

Answer: The Model 95 Winchester is a reasonably strong action and very little trouble was ever reported with it until just after World War I when a number of these guns turned up wrecked in about the condition of the one shown. After a few Springfields had been blown up by firing the 7.9 German service cartridges in them, it suddenly dawned on the Winchester engineers that this might be happening to the Model 95's also. This actually proved to be the case.

During the next few years we expect to see not only Winchester 95's, but Springfields, Enfields, and Mauser rifles, which have been rechambered for the .30-'06, damaged by someone who finds that German service cartridges will fit in these guns and then proceeds to fire them. The .323-inch bullet of the German cartridge is simply too big to go through a .30 caliber barrel without a terrific increase in pressure. Are you sure it wasn't a 1918 German cartridge that did the damage? If it was a 1918 American cartridge, it might have been one of those that were subject to splitting lengthwise near the head. One or two of the hastily established factories built during World War I made cartridges that gave quite a bit of this trouble. When this splitting occurs, the gas under high pressure escapes into the action and is liable to wreck things badly.—J. S. H.

2-R LOVELL

I have a little trouble with what might be headspace as I have been losing some cases in my 2-R Lovell. These cases were received with the gun and had been used before I got them. They give away about ¼ inch from the head. No complete separations yet but the last one I broke off with my fingers. According to General Hatcher's article on headspace in the December RIFLEMAN, I guess you would call them incipient separations. I doubt very much, however, if this rifle has excess headspace since it was built by a well-known maker and I don't think it has been fired enough to cause excess headspace.

If I do not have excess headspace, would cases that had lived their normal life give way in this manner?—BOB SWHIER, Portland, Ind.

Answer: When you use 2-R Lovell cases continuously the rim ordinarily becomes thinner because it is a small case and the load develops quite a high pressure and drives the case back against the breechblock with great force, thus tending to thin out the rims. This gives what in effect amounts to additional headspace. The tendency to separate is aggravated by the fact that after working the brass a lot, it becomes brittle. You will see, therefore, that your trouble is caused by headspace, as extremely tight cases will not separate forward of the head, as you indicate. I went through all that myself with one 2-R Lovell and when I had a dovetail piece set into the breechblock to take up the headspace I stopped losing cases, even after they had been fired a dozen or more times. You can get around this trouble by getting new cases, if, and when, they become available.—A. H. B.

MORE DOPE ON LONG MAGAZINE

In response to the Dope Bag article "Long Magazine for the .257 Roberts" appearing in the December AMERICAN RIFLEMAN magazine I would like to add the following information relative to the Winchester Model 70 chambered for this cartridge.

In order to use special long bullets handloaded to give maximum performance in the .257 Roberts it is necessary to make the following changes in the Winchester Model 70 rifle:

1. Lengthen the magazine
2. Lengthen the magazine follower
3. Lengthen the bolt stroke
4. Shorten the ejector.

The magazines for the .257 Roberts and .30-'06 cartridges in this rifle are the same with the exception that the one for the .257 has a partition installed in the back end to shorten its interior length. This partition may be removed and reinstalled by soldering or welding to give the desired magazine length. The short magazine follower, however, does not function well in the lengthened magazine so it is best to use an M70 .30-'06 follower ground off on the ends to fit the altered magazine.

After making the above-described alterations, the bolt stroke will be found to be too short for the longer cartridges as it is limited by a block attached to the extractor ring. This block can be cut back to give the desired length of bolt stroke. The job requires care, as removing and replacing the extractor ring bends it out of shape and it requires careful refitting.

To complete the alteration job the ejector must be shortened to permit the cartridges to feed and the cases to eject. A new ejector can be made or a section cut out of the original one and the shortened sections welded together.

If all parts are properly modified, the rifle will function well with commercial or handloaded ammunition which is loaded to an overall length greater than standard.

A simpler way of accomplishing the same result as those obtained by the above alterations, is to replace the Model 70, .257 Roberts magazine, magazine follower, extractor collar, and ejector with the corresponding parts made for this model as chambered for the .30-'06 cartridge. This latter modification results in a rifle with a bolt stroke that is longer than necessary. If it is desired to hold the stroke to a minimum, the alteration method first described must be followed.—P. F. LAMBERT, Arlington, Va.

.250-3000 SAVAGE FOR DEER

I would like to know the comparison between the .303 Savage and the .250-3000 for deer hunting. The .250-3000 has a higher

HANDLOADS FOR .257 ROBERTS

The figures shown on the following chart are for .257 Roberts cartridges and are all calculated from the same ballistic chart with the handloads verified for velocity by chronograph tests of fired rounds in a Model 70 Winchester Rifle with standard chamber and altered action to function with the long cartridges. Handloaded bullets represent ten ogive-pointed type, seated to maximum length.

The bullets used in the above-listed handloads were standard commercial bullets reformed in a 10 caliber ogive point die, except the 125 grain which was the Barnes bullet.—P. F. LAMBERT, Arlington, Va.

Bullet Wt.	Type Load	Chg.	Powder	Muzzle	Velocity 100 Yds.	300 Yds.	500 Yds.	Energy 500 Yds.
87	†H	46	4064	3400	3125	2700	2250	975 ft. lbs.
87	C	..	....	3180	2800	2220	1700	550 " "
100	†H	46	4350	3000	2775	2400	2075	950 " "
100	C	..	....	2900	2625	2050	1625	590 " "
117	†H	46	4350	2950	2750	2450	2150	1250 " "
117	C	..	....	2630	2400	1975	1550	625 " "
125	†H	46	4350	2850	2700	2375	2100	1300 " "
125	*H	46	4350	2850	2620	2175	1825	915 " "

H–Handload. C–Commercial load. * 4 Ogive bullet. † 10 Ogive bullet.

velocity but much smaller bullet than the .303 Savage but does it have the knockdown killing power of the .303 Savage, that is up to and over 300 yards? Which is the better deer gun for 250 to 500 yards?—W. S. SHELTON, Ontario, Calif.

Answer: My selection would be the .250-3000 Savage. I am taking into consideration the facts that your California deer are relatively small and that the terrain frequently requires long-range shooting. You will find that the midrange trajectory of the .250-3000 is just about half that of the .303 Savage. If I were you, I would not be too concerned about the relatively small size of the .250-3000 one hundred grain bullet. In spite of its small size, it has greater energy than the .303 at all ranges.—J. S. R.

CHECKERING TOOLS

The Dem-Bart Company makes some very nice-looking checkering tools. They are distributed solely by The Hollywood Gun Shop, 6032 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood, California.

The unusual feature of these checkering tools is the hardened individual cutting inserts, thus making one or two handles serve for any normal type of checkering. The samples received include spacers of 20 and 25 lines per inch. The same handles can be used for the hardened V-tool inserts. These checkering tools have well-made sharp cutting edges, they are small, compact, and easy to use. They are about the best we have seen for some time.—A. H. B.

SHOTGUN BORE SIGHTING KIT

The Swain Nelson Company, Glenview, Illinois, is manufacturing a bore sighting device which can be of use in aligning the sights on an automatic, pump, single shot, or double barrel shotgun. It was developed to assist in mounting the Nydar sight in particular but it has a much wider application than this.

The device consists of a 90° sighting tube with a mirror at the elbow. The tube contains a small aperture so that the vision is centered at the rear of the bore. The front centering aperture is of course the open muzzle of the shotgun.

The diameter of the tube section which fits into the rear of the bore is right for 410 gauge. The kit includes adapters for 20 gauge, 16 gauge, and 12 gauge guns which can be screwed onto the end of the tube and serve to center the aperture at the breech end of these guns.

The Swain Nelson people do not claim that bore sighting is the final answer to lining up your shotgun. They state that it is necessary to shoot it for final adjustments.

For an accuracy check on the device we took a 12 gauge shotgun which we knew to be properly sighted. We first lined the bore up on a 6 inch block at 50 yards. We then looked over the sights and found them to be centered on the same block. This test was repeated several times with success, which indicates that the bore sighting device can be used with a high degree of accuracy.—E. B.

NEW SCOPE MOUNT

Ed. L. Bengert of the R. S. Elliot Arms Company, 1508 Grand Ave., Kansas City, Mo., has designed a scope mount for hunting scopes.

(*Continued on page* 50)

MAUSER BOLTS

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on Mauser and other bolts $15.00. Bolt handles bent *(forged under low heat, not welded)* for $7.50. Send receiver with bolt.

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OF SPECIAL DESIGN

COUNTRY CRAFT SHOP, Middlefield, Mass.

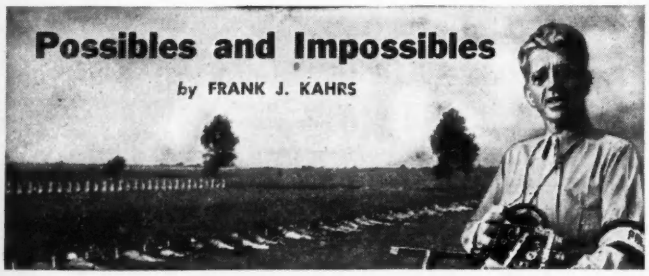
A PAPER FOR PEOPLE WHO SHOOT

Rifle

Remingto

VOL. 10, NO. 4

BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT, A



I have always been a great believer in promotion, but always the right kind of promotion. Take rifle shooting, for instance. It has grown to its present stature because folks are gregarious. That is to say, they like lots of people around and want human companionship, so while they are doing it, they have a lot of fun and that's shooting. And then someday they move away somewhere else and they find no one interested in shooting, or very few indeed, and then they start something with a result that soon there is a lot of shooting there.

I have in mind a couple of dyed-in-the-wool small-bore shooters, father and daughter to be exact, and that, let me say, is something very beautiful, this companionship between father and daughter. For companionship between father and daughter, or husband and wife for that matter, results in better understanding. I have seen a great deal of it in the years that have passed and I see it increasing all the time. It's a good sign.

What I really started out to say was that as a result of this very thing—that is, father and daughter team moving to a new home—rifle and pistol shooting has taken on new life in Jacksonville, Florida. The local pistol and rifle club is organizing a lot of new shooters and it looks like a new range for Jacksonville, lots of matches, etc., because a couple of new spark plugs have appeared on the scene and it proves what I say about promotion.

* * *

From time to time I have mentioned in this column the work of those men who have devoted the best part of their lives to rifle shooting promotion, and who have unselfishly helped many to become proficient with the rifle, including a lot of youngsters.

I have just read with much satisfaction and interest the final report of a junior rifle club in New Jersey, which shows that out of a total membership of 40, six qualified as Experts, 31 received Sharpshooter diplomas, two Marksman First Class and one Marksman.

That's 100% according to my way of figuring, and I doff my chapeau to the gentleman who is responsible for this excellent work.

* * *

I understand the boys out in Santa Barbara are hard at work on a new shooting range, which will include pistol, rifle, traps, skeet and archery. Oh, yes, also fly casting. The proposition is going to run into a lot of dough . . . $50,000 is the estimate, and there will be a 60-position small-bore range and 40 positions on the pistol range with 5 traps, 2 skeet fields, covered firing points, etc.

They expect to get this all installed and ready for competition early in the spring. Wouldn't be surprised to hear that the Far West Regionals will be held out there in July. Anyhow, it's an ambitious program and the fellows behind it have all the experience and energy needed to make the proposition go over big.

* * *

One of our friends down in the Southwest recently decided to do a bit of shooting in the early evening with a slight drizzle of rain occurring. These were ideal conditions under which to shoot, and so he lay down at 100 yards with his Remington 37 and "Police Targetmaster," and after he had fired the 10th shot at the X-ring, he nearly swooned when he saw what he had.

Yes, sir, one of the finest 10X possibles we have seen in many a day, and he says the combination is really "hot."

Incidentally, the chap who made this is a state champion, and this target he sent in is really something.

PREDICT BI
SHOOTING

HANDGUN SHOOTING GAINS IN POPULARITY

Today, more and more people are finding enjoyment in handgun competition. Pistol clubs are springing up all over the country, and there's important new emphasis on the handgun division of established rifle and pistol clubs.

Partly responsible are the thousands of returned servicemen who have joined clubs, promoted handgun shooting, and made competition razor-keen. There's nothing like competition to get interest high. And there's nothing like "hot" ammunition to keep things going. Remington Police Targetmaster is that kind of ammunition. Experts have favored it for years. They've passed the word on to newcomers. Try Police Targetmaster yourself next time you shoot. You'll keep on using it!

"IF IT'S REMINGTON IT'S RIGHT!"

'LIVE-WIRE' PROMOTE SHOOTING GAME!

HAMMOND, INDIANA Club members here have a re "spark plug" who gets thing done. It wasn't long after h moved here that he located place to build a range. The things began to happen. Hi enthusiasm was contagious and interest in shooting sho way up. The prediction is that the club will soon be one of th most active, having one of th best ranges in the state.

WANT TO BE A 'SWING 'n' SWAYER'

WHEATON, ILL. Here's "Swing 'n' Sway" Club on th range instead of a dance floo Members have adopted th name for position matche They fire 10 shots prone, 5 si ting, 5 kneeling and 10 stan ing. Lots of chance for "swin 'n' sway"! Qualifying score 90 offhand, and the top membe has a 93 to his credit! Like t get initiated?

NO CLUB COMPLETE WITHOUT ONE --- "THREE-SHOT IKE"
HEY! WHO PUTS 3 SHOTS ON A TARGET AND QUITS? DONTCHA KNOW THESE TARGETS COST MONEY?
VERY SILENT
SOMEBODY PRACTICIN' SWISS MATCHES, HUH? DROP ONE AND OUT!
IF HE'D SHOOT PALMA KLEANBORE MAYBE HE COULD COMPLETE A POSSIBLE!

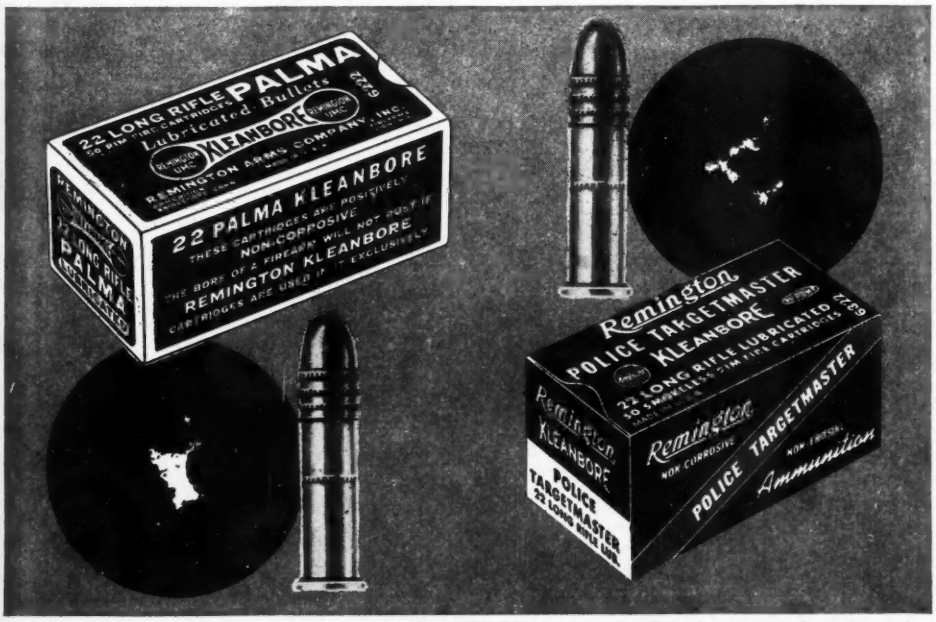
Remington News

WEATHER:
SUNNY SKIES AND CALM BREEZES
FOR A "HOT" SCORING SEASON

ORT, CONN. CTICUT, APRIL, 1947 — First Class Reading Matter for Rifle Shooters

BIGGEST OUTDOOR NG SEASON IN HISTORY

RIFLE AND PISTOL CLUBS PREPARE FOR RECORD-BREAKING SHOOTING ACTIVITY



Remington expects to meet the coming season with match rifles and ammunition of unsurpassed quality, uniformity and accuracy—providing the standards of performance required for shooting in "hot" competition.

BRIDGEPORT, CONN. Small-bore rifle and pistol shooting fans across the country are looking forward to the new outdoor season with the greatest enthusiasm. Clubs everywhere are anticipating more activity than ever before. As one indication of this, membership in the National Rifle Association was increased from about 80,000 in 1940 to 230,000 in 1947.

Production of Remington Palma Kleanbore and Police Targetmaster match cartridges is being increased to meet the demands of shooters during the coming outdoor season. It is hoped that, before long, all orders for the popular Remington Model 37 Rangemaster target rifle, the Model 513T Matchmaster, and Remington match ammunition may be filled immediately.

Here's good news for members of organized rifle clubs: Because of the heavy demand for Remington target rifles and ammunition, we want to be sure these products reach shooters who will make the maximum use of them at rifle and pistol ranges. Therefore, we are following up individually, all orders for these products, and suggest that when your club or members place orders, they specify to the local supplier that shipment is to be specifically "earmarked" for them. The Remington Rifle Promotion Section will be glad to see that these orders are filled with minimum delay.

WHAT ABOUT COVERING YOUR FIRING POINTS?

Lots of clubs have covered their firing points to give shade from the sun and protection against adverse weather conditions. What about your club? It's a subject that's been talked about a lot. And now is the time to do something about it.

Shortages of material such as lumber, canvas and other essentials have been greatly relieved in recent months, and in most cases materials are available locally. There are always a few "Handy Andys" around the club who can do the job easily and quickly.

Get your club's beautification plan under way now—build its prestige for the coming season. And don't forget, folks at Remington are happy to help with suggestions for the plan and design of your improved range facilities. Just write to Rifle Promotion Section, Remington Arms Company, Inc., Bridgeport, Conn.

Palma, Kleanbore and Targetmaster are Reg. U. S. Pat. Off. by Remington Arms Company, Inc., Bridgeport 2, Conn.

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They like the 4-speed enclosed drive, full quick change gears, worm feed apron, modern steel bench with 5 independently locking drawers and moderate price.

If you're considering a lathe be sure to see the S-56 before you buy. As illustrated, without motor, $930 f.o.b. Chicago.

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Measuring Drums ground, and hard chrome-plated with ends blued. Bore of Measure honed to 10 to 15 micro-inch finish.

Adjustable Rifle Model	$12.50
Adjustable Pistol Model	12.50
Extra Drum to combine above	4.00
Bench Stand (shown)	3.25

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CASES. For the 8x57mm. rimless Mauser. Empty, unprimed. Made from one-fired 30-06 cases. 6¢ each, F. O. B. here. Include money for postage, or can ship express collect. Write for list of items we can supply for immediate delivery, which includes Du Pont and Hercules powders, Speer and Sisk bullets, cases, tools, scales, powder measures, scopes, primers, mounts, ammunition, etc. Stamp appreciated.

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New-type Wrench; fits all rifle actions. Guaranteed to remove *tightest barrel*, $25.50. *New* barrel vise. NO MARRING. With four sleeves. Guaranteed, $21.50.

For details write
W. S. VICKERMAN, *Gunsmith*
208 S. Ruby St. Ellensburg, Wash.

(*Continued from page 47*)

It is a single unit 1.70 inches long and it mounts only on the receiver ring of a rifle. For the Model 70 at least, the two standard scope base screw holes are used. The scope ring is quick detachable from the base, and preliminary windage adjustment is provided by opposing screws in the mount base.

The sample appears to be well made, and neat, except for the single locking screw which passes through the mount base at approximately a 45 degree angle. The main objection to any single-unit base is the considerable overhang of the scope in front of and behind the mount.—A. H. B.

SPECIAL RESIZING DIES

The Sports Supply of California, Box 396, Montrose, Calif., headed by Mr. Edward Larralde, makes special resizing dies with Carboloy inserts for longer wearing life. Handloaders like Jake Engbrecht, have already tried these dies and the reports are that there is a minimum of wear, (less than .00025 inch) after resizing more than 100,000 cases. The estimated life with the Carboloy inserts is approximately 700,000 rounds with uncleaned cases. If this is true then the cost of $18.50 is not prohibitive.

These dies, made for most of the commonly used tools, are available in .32 S. & W. Long, .38 Special, 9-mm. Luger, .357 S. & W. Magnum, .44 S. & W. Special, .45 Auto Rim and the .45 A.C.P. cartridges. The trade name for these dies is "Life-Tyme".—A. H. B.

AMMUNITION FOR JAP RIFLES

Could you tell we what size ammunition will fit Jap rifles and where it may be obtained?—W. LEE ROBINSON, Grace, Idaho.

Answer: Unfortunately, we cannot help you in obtaining Jap ammunition. As you undoubtedly know, there are two calibers. One is the 6.5 mm. Arisaka and the other is the 7.7 mm. or .303 caliber. This ammunition is not made in this country and chances are it never will be. There is no substitute cartridge which you can use in Jap rifles. Some gunsmiths are rechambering the best of the Jap rifles for other cartridges, such as the 6.5 mm. Mannlicher-Schoenauer, but even that ammo is not obtainable at present.—A. H. B.

NO ALL-PURPOSE RIFLE

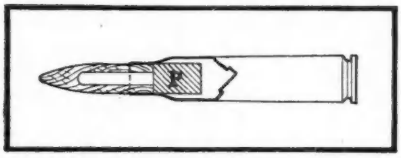
I would like a little help on selecting a new rifle. I live on my dad's farm and in my spare time I like to shoot crows, hawks, and vermin. I also like to go deer, boar, and black bear hunting when I can. Also within the next two years I am planning to go into Canada or Alaska and hunt grizzly bear. I know that there is no such thing as one gun being adaptable for all three uses. But, there is bound to be a caliber that could be used, although not entirely satisfactory, for all three purposes. That is what I want your advice on.—TOM MOORE, Chattanooga, Tenn.

Answer: Trying to compromise on a rifle which would be satisfactory for game from vermin to grizzly bear, is somewhat like trying to compromise on an airplane which would be satisfactory for fighting and long-range bombing. When you go after grizzly bear, as when going on a long-range bombing mission, there is not much compromise. Either mission would be fatal if adequate equipment were not used. You can afford to be slightly overgunned on vermin but being undergunned when facing a grizzly would be a serious mistake.

For game found in the United States only, you might find a compromise in the .270 Winchester. For getting the maximum pleasure out of your shooting from crows to grizzly bear you should have at least two rifles. It is my suggestion that you get a .220 Swift, .257 Roberts or other small-caliber high velocity rifle for your vermin and medium-large game found in the United States. For grizzly bear I would use nothing less than a .300 H&H Magnum or a .375 H&H Magnum, preferably the latter. Both of these cartridges are accurate performers. With a .300 H&H Magnum you could not only hunt grizzly but could use it for long-range shots such as you might experience when hunting mountain sheep.—E. B.

CZECH 7.92MM MAUSER WOODEN BULLET CARTRIDGE

While trying out a few wooden bullet cartridges in 7.92mm a while back I had occasion to use some of Czech manufacture. The increased recoil and report, as compared with German loadings, (very small even then for all cartridges of this type) at first led me to believe that the batch I had obtained was loaded with solid wooden bullets. Breakdown of a few cartridges brought forth an interesting feature, namely, that of a solid metal plug (P. in sketch) which upon analysis proved to be aluminum. This plug measuring .499 inch long and .323 inch in diameter and weighing



about 35 grains is plated along its length with what appears to be chromium, the ends being unplated. A small drop of red paint marks the end toward the mouth of the case. The plug is positioned approximately ¼ inch from the mouth in such a way that it is wedged tightly into the neck, so tightly in fact that (in specimens examined) it could not be freed but rather the cartridge had to be cut to pieces in order to obtain a specimen. The hollow wooden bullet, of natural, uncolored wood, weighs about 9 grains and is approximately .321 inch in diameter. It is seated directly on the plug and crimped into the shell.

Powder (weight approximately 40 grains) is of the German, gray flake type, the brass case is nickel-plated (as determined by chemical analysis). Two loadings are known, that of Zbrojovka and that of Sellier and Bellot.

While most wooden bullets are hardly considered lethal projectiles, the presence of a metal plug in this loading might on occasion cause damage and consequently they should be respected as one would a regular loading.—HARRY WANDRUS, Milwaukee, Wis.

WEATHERBY .300 MAGNUM

Two years ago I shot an elk about 225 yards away with my regular .300 Magnum using a 220 grain soft-nose bullet and said elk stood for the second shot and did not move so much as a hair, but finally trotted off for parts unknown. It happens that I am color-blind and I experience the greatest difficulty in tracking when there is no snow. Two days later this elk was found all bloated up and useless—a victim of impotent firearms. Then I decided that I would gun myself with sufficient power to lay

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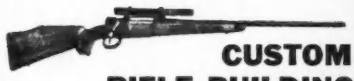

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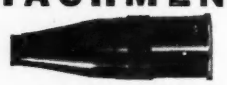

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my game down, where hit, so took my rifle down to South Gate in Los Angeles and had Roy Weatherby rechamber it for me.

I standardized on two loads—82 grains of 4350 back of a 150 grain bullet, rated at 3515 foot-seconds and 3885 foot-pounds; and a 180 grain boattail open-point Western bullet, which, in front of 80 grains of 4380, just slogs along at 3340 foot-seconds to give a 4451 foot-pound blow.

On a recent trip to the Mollala country in Northeastern Oregon this gun had a chance at three different elk (no you're wrong, it was all legal. One for me and two backing shots). Now in this country it is the rule rather than the exception for these elk to carry away four and five 220 grain bullets from the .30-'06 guns; that is, where they are shot at distances beyond 150 yards where vital spots may not be chosen. These animals have tremendous vitality and will weigh up to 750 pounds (the Western Oregon species will go to 1000 pounds). The first of these elk was sighted lying in its bed. It leaped up at the shot which caught it in the lower jaw, completely blasting it away. The animal died instantly in the air and rolled down the mountain nearly 100 yards. The bullet was not found but was known to completely disintegrate. The opinion of Dr. Claude A. Lewis of Portland, who was one of the party, was that a fragment of the bullet had entered the brain through the throat cavity. As for myself, I believe the tremendous shocking power of this load is alone responsible for causing such instant death.

The second animal, which had already been stung with both .270 and .30-'06 bullets was laid in the aisle permanently with the magnum. It was hit amidships about four inches below the vertebrae. Most any gun could have accomplished this effect. The third animal was hit well back on the off side of the back about six inches above the flank ranging diagonally forward through the body. It also was blasted into instant death—all three bullets completely disintegrating upon impact with only small fragments being found.

The above will serve to prove the validity of the armor-plate test. All these Weatherby magnums, including the .22 Rocket Magnum, will skip right through half-inch armor plate where the factory stuff only dents it.

Brother, I now have a gun that lays them down where I shoot them and not four miles over the hill.—HERB T. BROWN, Portland, Oregon.

HUNTING WITH GERMAN AMMUNITION

Is it safe and practical to convert Mauser issue ammunition for sporting use? I notice it is boattail; if it can be changed by drilling and flattening the point, what are the specifications?

How about pulling the bullets and putting in a sporting-type bullet? What type and weight would you recommend?—W. E. NEAL, Live Oak, Calif.

Answer: So long as you work with boattail bullets, it is practical to alter the point the same way it is done on our .30-'06 boattail bullets. Cut off just enough of the point to permit a drill to enter, then drill a hole ¼ inch deep with a ⅛-inch drill. If you change bullets, use nothing heavier with the regular German service charge than 170 grain weight, such as the Speer soft point.—A. H. B.

GERMAN SHOTGUN PROOF TEST

The markings on my German 16 gauge shotgun indicate that it was proof tested with 2.93 grams of smokeless powder and 30 grams of No. 8 shot with the normal charge being 1.70 grams of powder and 28 grams of shot. If this is true, and if the figures I have are correct, there aren't any domestic shells that can be used in the gun.

Catalogues show 16 gauge shells to be loaded with 2½ drams or 2¾ drams of powder with 1 ounce or 1⅛ ounces of shot respectively. The shot figures check out quite closely; 1 ounce being equal to 28.35 grams. But when it comes to the powder, that's another question. One dram according to my figures is equal to 1.77 grams. Then 2½ drams would be equal to 4.425 grams; which is far over the test load. I imagine that it would not be advisable to use American loads in my gun.—R. S. MILLER, Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Answer: I do not know what "speed" of smokeless powder the Germans used in proof testing your shotgun, but 2.93 grams is 45.3 grains. The maximum load of du Pont Oval in the 2¾-inch 16 gauge shell with 1 ounce of shot is 34.5 grains. Forty-five grains of smokeless powder in a 16 gauge shell is a superpotent load.

While a dram is actually a unit of weight, it is not possible to convert the "dram equivalent" specification given for our shot shells directly into grains or grams. For loading black-powder shells a volumetric measure was used which held three drams (82 grains) of black powder. .Smokeless powder filling this same standard measure weighs much less than three drams. This weight varies, of course, with the density of the particular powder used. Therefore the term "dram equivalent" when used with smokeless powder does not mean any specific weight of powder.

In view of the fact that your shotgun was proof tested with about 45 grains of smokeless powder, and that a 2¾ dram equivalent load in the 16 gauge shotgun shell is about 22 grains of Hercules Red Dot, the chances are that the gun is plenty safe with the standard loads produced in this country.

A word of caution! German shotguns sometimes have, marked on the barrel, a circled figure indicating the chamber length in millimeters. The lack of such a figure in most cases means that the 16 gauge gun has a 65 mm. chamber and is therefore suitable for use with the 2 9/16-inch shell but not the longer 2¾-inch shell.—E. B.

.30-30 AS ARMY ISSUE?

In order to settle a bet, will you please let me know how many .30-30 caliber and how many .30-'06 caliber rifles were issued to American troops during World War I?—KENNETH G. HUTCHINSON, Huntington Park, Calif.

Answer: The .30-30 is not, and never has been, a standard Government caliber. As far as I know, no rifles were issued during World War I for the .30-30 cartridge.

We started that War with 600,000 Springfields on hand, which were chambered for the .30-'06 ammunition, and, in addition, 160,000 Krags, which were chambered for the .30-40, otherwise known as the .30 U. S. Army cartridge. In addition, we purchased 280,049 Russian rifles, chambered for the .30 caliber Russian cartridge, which is different from our

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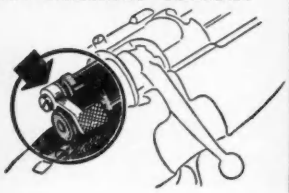

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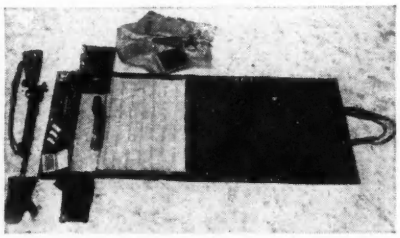
cartridge. These were rifles which were being made in this country for Russia when the war broke out and we took over the contracts. From the Canadians we purchased 20,000 Ross rifles, made for the .303 British cartridge, Mark VII. During the war up to November 9, 1918, 312,878 Springfield rifles, were produced by Springfield and Rock Island, and 2,506,307 Model 1917 Enfields were produced and delivered by Winchester, Remington, and Eddystone. Most of these rifles were issued either for combat, for training or for armed guards, etc. You will thus note that during World War I, we had received into stores from one source or another 3,419,185 rifles chambered for the .30-'06 cartridge, in addition to the Russian and Canadian rifles and the Krags, above mentioned, which were not chambered for this cartridge.

While most of these rifles were issued to troops, there were, of course, some remaining in stores at the end of the war. I do not have any figures available to show exactly how many of the above rifles were actually issued to troops, but we can safely assume that the greater part of them were.—J. S. H.

PAKALL SHOOTING KIT

The belly shooter has always cursed his lot as he toted his equipment to and from the range.

The one armed paper hanger has nothing on him as he tries to open a screen door while carrying a rifle, shooting coat, dope kit, spotting scope with stand, and perhaps a rain coat. With both hands full already it is a joke to attempt the addition of a ground cloth so he accepts the inevitable and makes two trips to the car. The annoyance is even more pronounced if the rifleman must travel by train or other public conveyance.



New shooting mat and kit outfit

The introduction of the Pakall, a few weeks ago, solves these problems. It is a combination shooting kit, gun case, and ground cloth with each service performing its function well.

The N. R. A. Technical Division was approached several months ago by a representative of the Oceanside Sports Products Company for criticism of an experimental ground cloth. The cloth was a good one of number 10 water repellent duck. It was equipped with a row of accessory pockets and a rubber filled pad was positioned for each elbow.

We felt so strongly the need for a device which would solve the target shooters traveling problem that we persuaded the manufacturer to make a few alterations. The result is first, a high quality ground cloth having the right amount of padding in the right places. Next, it is a dope kit capable of carrying ammunition, tools, loading block, sight inserts, shooting coat, glove, scope and stand. Your coverall or rain coat may also be added without making too bulky a pack. Third, the Pakall is a gun case which will enclose all target rifles under 50

inches in length. The most vulnerable parts of the rifle and scope are protected by a solid wrapping of the crushed rubber used in the elbow pads.

The carrying handle has been designed to shift easily to the point of balance so we have a case which will ride "on the level."

The price at $19.85 looks a little steep but perhaps you will consider the Pakall as a saving when you total the combined cost of a conventional gun case, dope kit, and high quality ground cloth.—J. S. R.

STAR-GAUGED RIFLES

Can you tell me what is meant by a star-gauged Springfield?—LESTER L. LINN, Rocky Ford, Colo.

Answer: A star gauge is an instrument for measuring the inside diameter of a bore at various points. It looks something like a cleaning rod with some measuring points on the end, and the name comes from the fancied resemblance of these points to the rays of a star.

Star-gauging simply tells how close the bore and rifling are to the prescribed limits and how uniform they are from point to point along the barrel. It does not make a gun shoot any better, but it does make it possible to locate and discard a gun which is not made to close tolerances.—J. S. H.

MUZZLE CAPS

The Woodford Mfg. Company, Lyndhurst, Ohio, now makes improved, stronger, oil-resistant Neoprene Muzzle Caps. There are two convenient sizes to cover many different requirements. The small size caps will fit over the muzzle of any size rifle or handgun barrel. The large size will fit on the muzzle of any single barrel shotgun and is fully as well adapted to cover those coated lens scopes to keep out dust, rain or snow. Any rifle or shotgun can be safely fired with these caps on the muzzle with no chance of damage to the gun. Tests indicate almost conclusively that even the accuracy is not impaired in the least.

The manufacturer indicates that returned Servicemen definitely approve of these muzzle caps, especially after their experiences at Anzio Beach and other sandy beaches, where it was not uncommon to see wrecked gun barrels that had been at least partially filled with sand. These caps, for the shooter and hunter as well, are economical insurance against a wrecked gun.—A. H. B.

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After reading the series "From Enfield to Sporter" in THE RIFLEMAN I decided to see what a rank amateur (and I do mean rank) could do with the few crude tools found in any gun crank's workshop.

I did not have all the gouges, rasps, chisels, etc., that I would have liked to have, but did the work with coarse files, a small wood carving set and lots of elbow grease.

At the same time I ordered the rifle from the DCM, I sent to Bishop for one of his $6.00 Sporter stocks. After washing the rifle in a bucket of gasoline with an old paintbrush (don't smoke during this job!) I took the rifle down and cleaned all parts. The sleeves from the holes for front and rear guard screws and

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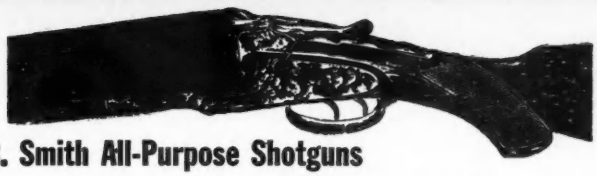

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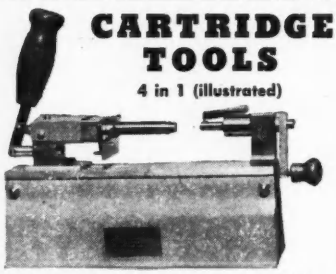

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the cross bolt were removed from the old stock and saved for use with the new one.

The Bishop stock, a very fine grained piece of walnut, was already inletted for depth with the exception of the barrel groove and had plenty of excess wood around the pistol grip and cheekpiece to allow for individual ideas of shaping.

I started on the barrel groove by applying Prussian blue to the barrel to mark the high spots, and then working them out very slowly with a small gouge and coarse, round file. Let me point out that a very small amount of blue is too much. I used plenty and ended up with a blue stock from handling, then had to spend a lot of time and energy sanding the blue out of the grain.

After finishing the barrel groove and taking out a little wood here and there I got the action fitted. The next step was to install the cross bolt from the old stock and drill the holes for the guard screws larger to take the sleeves, which will have to be ground shorter to fit the new stock so the tension will be on the wood instead of on the bushings.

If desired, the guard can be used as it is, but to eliminate the step I sawed the guard tang as illustrated in the Bishop catalog and had it welded. This made the front guard screw too long, and as I could not procure a ¼ inch x 30 thread screw I had a machinist make one ½ inch shorter than the original and it worked perfectly.

The stock came with Tenite caps on the forend and pistol grip. I worked the grip and cheekpiece down to suit my fancy and the stock was ready for finishing.

After installing some old swivels which I had and procuring a sling from the DCM, I was well pleased to have what I consider a very fine rifle for either hunting or target work at a total cost of less than $20.00.

I have not changed the sights as yet, but am considering a ramp front and receiver rear after cutting off the ears.—C. J. Moore, Daytona Beach, Fla.

.22 L.R. OR .22 W.R.F.

Winchester lists a cartridge: .22 W.R.F., 45-grain bullet. The 100-yard velocity is 30 feet and the energy is 19 pounds greater than the .22 Long Rifle, and the trajectory is .2 inch less. On paper this seems to be better than the .22 L.R.

But actually would this give a person a better target and small-game rifle than the one chambered for the .22 L.R.?

I have a Savage Model 23A. If the .22 W.R.F. is better than the .22 L.R. could I have the chamber lengthened to take that cartridge? —C. F. Spear, Newton, Illinois.

Answer: For a small-game cartridge unquestionably the .22 W.R.F. and especially the high-speed load is better than the .22 Long Rifle. It is an accurate cartridge, but certainly no more accurate than the .22 Long Rifle. For a target gun the change would not be necessary, but it would be desirable for small-game hunting.

There is a good reason why you cannot convert your Savage rifle. It is because of bullet diameter. The .22 W.R.F. bullet measures approximately .2255 to .226 inch, and the .22 Long Rifle bullet measures between .222 and .2238 inch. Special barrels of larger groove diameter and a quicker twist, or one turn in 14 inches are made for the W.R.F. cartridge.—A. H. B.

CALCULATING BULLET ENERGY

Would you please tell me how to arrive at "muzzle energy"; 100 yards, 200 yards, etc.

Can this figure be arrived at, knowing only velocity and bullet weight?—1ST LT. PAUL E. THORNTON, Sandusky, Ohio.

Answer: Kinetic energy of a moving body is equal to one-half the mass of the body times the square of the velocity. Therefore, the muzzle energy of a bullet is equal to one-half the mass of the bullet times the square of the muzzle velocity or $\frac{1}{2} \times m \times v^2$ where m is mass in pounds and v is velocity in feet per second.

Mass is weight divided by the acceleration of gravity which varies slightly at different points on the earth, but is generally taken at 32.16, hence the formula becomes:

$$\text{muzzle energy} = \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{w}{32.16} \times v^2 \text{ where w is}$$

the weight of the bullet in pounds.

If the bullet weight is given in grains it must be divided by 7000 to bring it to pounds, as there are 7000 grains in a pound avoirdupois.

The formula therefore becomes:

$$\text{muzzle energy} = \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{w}{7000 \times 32.16} \times v^2$$

For an example take the 150 grain service bullet at 2800 feet per second:

$$\text{energy} = \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{150}{7000 \times 32.16} \times 2800 \times 2800 = 2618$$

foot pounds.

No matter what the bullet weight and the velocity are, the factors under the line, that is 2 x 7000 x 32.16, always remain the same. These numbers multiplied together give 450,240.

If we will remember this number we can save time and trouble by writing the formula this way:

$$\text{energy} = \frac{\text{bullet wt. in grains x velocity squared}}{450{,}240}$$

So to get the energy of a bullet, square the velocity and multiply the result by the bullet weight in grains, then divide by 450,240.—J. S. H.

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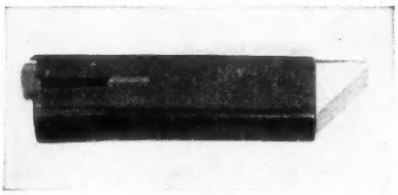
Wolff & Mundy, 5 So. 69th St., Upper Darby, Pa., manufacture a prismatic "Boreskope." It is a small, compact unit (2¼x5⅝x1½ inches). It was designed so as to instantly aid inspection of the bore of a rifle, pistol or shotgun for barrel wear, fouling, snow, mud or any other obstruction. The unit with its retractable plastic type prism is carried in a handy plastic case, no larger than a small penknife. For that reason it can be carried conveniently at all times. There is nothing to get out of order and the "Boreskope" does aid noticeably when inspecting the bore of a firearm.—A. H. B.



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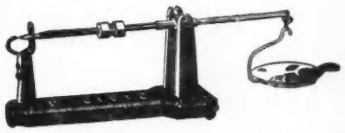

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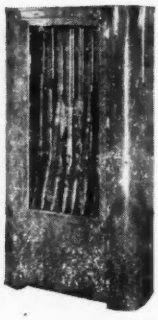

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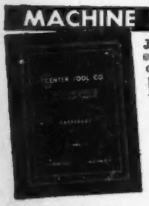

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HEAVY .257 LOAD

Would you please be so kind as to verify a statement in the December issue of THE RIFLEMAN? This appears on page 25 in the article, "Origin of The .257" by N. H. Roberts and reads: "The .257 Roberts cartridge loaded with 46 grains of I.M.R. No. 4350 powder and the 117-grain bullet . . ."

To me this seems like a very, very heavy load, as 46 grains in the .257 case is over 20% in excess of any load in the Ideal Handbook with the 117-grain bullet.—ROLAND W. WHITE, Geneva, Ohio.

Answer: I think you are overlooking the fact that No. 4350 is a very slow-burning powder and slower than any for which loads are listed. That is why you can use the heavier charge, but you could not, of course, with the faster burning powder, even like No. 4064.

I happen to know that this same load of No. 4350 has been used with a 125-grain Barnes bullet. That does sound like a heavy load, but I have a statement from good authority that it was used with satisfaction in one rifle at least. The velocity with the 125-grain bullet was chronographed at 2850 f.s.—A. H. B.

M1 AND M2 SPRINGFIELD

Can you explain the difference between a Springfield M1 and M2 caliber .22? Have on hand an M2 which I have considered converting to K-Hornet or K-Lovell, but would like to know if the M2 bolt will stand pressures for above loads. Have always understood that Griffin & Howe always use the M1 in their conversions.—C. O. SISSON, Great Bend, N. Y.

Answer: The reason the Model 1922 M1 rifle is used for conversion to Hornet or similar calibers is that you have a long bolt travel, about the equivalent of the .30-'06 in 1903 Model. The M2 has a very short bolt travel and it would be unsatisfactory for conversion work, unless the bolt stop is altered. I believe it would be more work to convert the M2 magazine over to handle the Hornet cartridge than it would be the M1. There is actually no difference in the two rifles when it comes to strength of the action or bolt. The main differences are faster striker travel, an altered magazine and shorter bolt throw for the M2. —A. H. B.

GUNSMITH TRADE DOPE

Bob Brownell of Brownell Industries, Montezuma, Iowa, is bringing out a new catalog of gunsmiths and shooters supplies. He has already contacted many manufacturers, but he is sure there are plenty of other makers of shooters supplies who have been overlooked or not contacted at all. Any manufacturer wishing to have his merchandise listed in the new catalog should contact Brownell at once. This is apparently the first attempt by Brownell to get out a fair sized catalog of shooting accessories, but it will undoubtedly be done in the business-like Brownell manner.

☆ ☆ ☆

Exrus is the trade name of several rust inhibitors sold by the Long Island Sporting Goods Company, Kew Gardens, New York. Two types were submitted. Exrus Mark I is

a semisolid oil or grease, which pours at room temperature. It is suitable for protection under normal outdoor exposure conditions. The steel test plate was absolutely clean and bright with no signs of rust after five months in the 97 percent brine bath, at normal room temperature.

Exrus Mark II is a solvent-type protective agent. The volatile solvent evaporates, leaving a thin protective film on the surface of the metal. Like most of the solvent-type compounds, Exrus Mark II did not show up so well for the severe brine test, but for normal protection it is comparable with similar compounds on the market. Some rust appeared within a week and the corrosion was quite noticeable, covering 50 percent of the surface within three weeks. With the steel surface precleaned before applying Mark II, the thin protective coating prevents rust under normal handling conditions.—A. H. B.

☆ ☆ ☆

Correction should be made in the item concerning the Universal Engineering Co. which appeared in the Trade Dope column of the February issue. They are no longer connected with the LaSalle Sales & Mfg. Co., in Detroit, which formerly served as their distributors. Any correspondence concerning their products should be addressed to the Universal Engineering Co., 2165 Newton Ave., San Diego, Calif.

☆ ☆ ☆

The Terhaar Manufacturing Co., 6425 Cross Ave., Jacksonville, Fla., recently sent us samples of their inside barrel band and swivel stud, bow swivel, and fore-end screw eye stud. The bands come in different sizes, .74, .80 and .84 inch inside, and diameter of barrel should be included with order. They appear to be very well made. See the Terhaar ad in this issue.

This firm also has a special T-R-C stock finish consisting of a wood conditioner, filler, and finishing oil. We will report on our results with it at a later date.

☆ ☆ ☆

Ralph T. Davis, 327 S. Georgia Avenue, Hynes, California, is a gunsmith specializing in conversion work, including most all standard and wildcat calibers. He features a .25 caliber wildcat based on the .270 Winchester case.

A separate department makes jacketed hunting bullets. At present he can make .22, .257, .270, .30 caliber, and 8 mm. bullets.

☆ ☆ ☆

E. G. Dahl, Route 4, Billings, Montana, has been custom loading for a number of standard cartridges. These include the .30-'06, .30-40, 8 mm., .270, .257, .250 Savage, .220 Swift, .22 Hornet, and 2-R Lovell. Most are safe high-velocity loads using light-jacketed bullets. He also makes up blank loads for Western shows.

Other work includes military rifle conversions, including new barrels for standard calibers.

☆ ☆ ☆

The Dahl-Williams Co., 4040 Sterling Rd., Downers Grove, Illinois, announces a new relatively inexpensive "Dandy Sandy" hand sander. It will hold standard-size sheets of sandpaper or abrasive cloth. It is seven inches

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BIG or SMALL GAME HUNTING

We manufacture a large variety of precision telescopes for every purpose, in all price ranges. Our modern facilities, capable technicians and skilled craftsmen will help you to better your scores.

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See your dealer or drop us a line—if you are interested in top quality and top performance.

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Why fool with cheap imitations? Dress up your gun with real Pearl Grips now! Don't wait! *Supply limited.*

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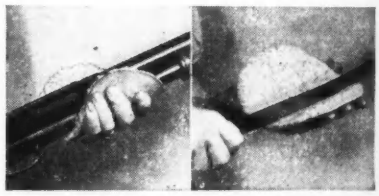

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INVENTORS

PATENT LAWS ENCOURAGE the development of inventions. The Rules of Practice of the U. S. Patent Office advises—unless an inventor is familiar with such matters—that he employ a competent registered attorney, as the value of patents depends largely upon the skillful preparation of the specifications and claims. Write for further particulars as to patent protection and procedure and "Invention Record" form at once. No obligation.

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New **SUPER-DE LUXE QUALITY** air mattresses up to ½ off only because they are slight seconds—factory repaired, completely serviceable—unconditionally guaranteed air-tight. *Your money back if not 100% satisfied.* Waterproof, rubberized fabric. Concealed air valve. Send check or money order; 20% deposit with C. O. D.'s. **IMMEDIATE DELIVERY.**

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Small AIR PILLOW to match $1.39
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Western #209, fit Western, Winchester, Federal, (Can be adapted to Peters) per thousand, $5.25; per case of 5,000 ..... 18.00
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All are fresh stock, non-corrosive, battery cup type. Regular retail price now $10.50 per M. Special prices in hundred-thousand lots.

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Brand New Stocks for Model 97 and Model 12 Winchester Repeating Shotguns, completely finished, with fitted butt plate, inletted for sling swivel, standard pistol grip, all ready to drop into place, usual WINCHESTER quality and appearance, 12 gauge only, state model, each (postpaid) $5.75
BARRELS, Winchester Model 97, 12 x 30 Full, Solid Frame Only $10.50
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LYMAN ALASKAN, All Weather, choice of 7 reticules $60.00
WEAVER K2.5, Post or Crosshair 45.00
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ARGUS Spotting Scopes, Super Grade, 20X, 55 mm. 74.50
All above scopes latest type with coated lenses

SIGHTS & MOUNTS

Redfield Junior, for most rifles, for Alaskan, $12.75; for K2.5 & K4 ..... $14.75
Redfield 70-H Receiver Sights to fit most rifles 8.50
Redfield 102 Receiver Sights to fit most rifles 5.75
Redfield Ramp Front Sights, with hood, 24" & 26" Enfield 8.50
Lyman 48 Sights to fit most rifles 12.50
Lyman 77 and 77H, with base and inserts 4.50
STITH Install-It-Yourself Mounts, for Winchester 70 and Savage 99, and ALASKAN, WEAVER K2.5, or Weaver K4, standard, $15.00. Q.E.D. with lens caps 17.50
BAUSCH & LOMB BINOCULARS, 6 x 30, coated lenses, C.F., lightweight, postwar, with case, BRAND NEW ..... $112.00, plus 20% tax

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MARK 218 TELESCOPE

22 POWER TELESCOPE
$22.50
Including rubber lens caps

For long-range observation and target spotting. Guaranteed to spot .22 holes at 100 yards and to see the moons of Jupiter. Wide angle, spiral screw, quick focussing eyepiece. Lightweight aluminum construction. 12½" long. A highly recommended precision optical instrument.

40 MM Dia. Achromatic objective lenses, fluoride hard coated for brighter, clearer images. Immediate Delivery. We pay the postage. Adjustable Tripod quickly folded for carrying
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TELESCOPES BINOCULARS MICROSCOPES

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In all calibers. Conversions to military arms. Fancy stocking for rifles and shotguns. Repairs and parts made for foreign guns. Scopes mounted. Bolts and actions altered. Special rebarreling. General repairs and beautiful bluing.

All guns covered by insurance when in my shop. Wholesale and retail.

MORRIS L. MENG

Proprietor & Custom Gunsmith

TRIANGLE SPORTS—SEWELL, N. J.

long and three inches wide, and it is available through standard channels. The Dandy Sandy should be a very useful tool for the gunstock maker.

☆ ☆ ☆

South Bend Lathe Works, 452 East Madison Street, South Bend 22, Ind., has announced a new line of precision draw-in collets made of brass instead of the usual hardened steel. Although they are not intended to replace the more expensive steel type, they are manufactured to the same exacting tolerances and have some advantages. When worn, a brass collet can be rebored to a larger diameter. Another advantage of brass collets is that they can be machined for holding tapered pieces or other irregular shapes. Their principal advantage, of course, is their low cost, which makes them especially desirable for odd sizes that are used only occasionally.

☆ ☆ ☆

Al Freeland, 3737 14th Avenue, Rock Island, Illinois has just published "Retail-Wholesale" Catalogue No. 47. This catalogue includes everything that the small-bore target shooter needs as well as equipment for the hunter, camper, pistol shooter, or handloading enthusiast. Items are well arranged for quick reference and the retail price for each item is shown. It is an excellent 64-page catalogue.

☆ ☆ ☆

W. Joseph O'Connor, Baker, Oregon, has for sale several English books on guns and shooting which will be of interest to many shooters. The subject matter deals mainly with service weapons. These books or booklets range in price from 50c to $2.50.

☆ ☆ ☆

Philip Jay Medicus, 18 Fletcher Street, New York 7, New York, writes that he has started in business at the above address, supplying cartridges to collectors and shooters, and that he has quantities of scarce foreign cartridges from practically all countries.

☆ ☆ ☆

Mill-Rose Company, Cleveland, Ohio, makes a mighty nice looking aluminum cleaning rod for pistols and revolvers with four tips, one each for .22, .32, .38 and .45 calibers. We saw these on Jesse Harpe's display bench at the Tampa Shoot, and we just couldn't resist investing $1.25 for one of them. It was a source of satisfaction to note that the threads on the interchangeable tips are of the No. 8-32 size which is proposed as the future standard for all cleaning rod tips and brushes.

☆ ☆ ☆

Harold Thompson writes that he has sold out his interest in the Mashburn Arms Company, of which he was formerly a partner, and is now opening his own shop, known as the Thompson's Gun Shop, 1139 Pearl Street, Boulder, Colo. Mr. Thompson states that he has purchased all new equipment and will specialize in barrel work. We wish him the best of luck in his new enterprise.

☆ ☆ ☆

Robert W. Benson, 307 Pine Street, Huntingdon, Penna., is now doing general gunsmithing. This will include specializing in bluing, military rifle conversions, and general repairing. We have been assured that he will turn out good work.

THE ARMS CHEST

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

1. Rate: 20 cents per word including name and address—minimum charge $3.00. All advertisements must be accompanied by remittance.

2. Closing Date: All advertisements must be received by not later than the 1st of the month preceding date of issue. (Example: the 1st of April for the May issue. Ads *received* after the 1st of April *and not later than the 1st of May* will be inserted in the June issue.)

3. Who May Advertise: Any individual or firm whose advertisements and methods of doing business meet our requirements may advertise their goods or services in the ARMS CHEST.

4. All Orders Subject to These Conditions: WE reserve the right to edit all copy to conform with our standards and to reject or discontinue any advertisement which we consider undesirable.

5. Transactions Based on Good Faith: ARMS CHEST transactions are based on good faith and mutual satisfaction. Deliberate misrepresentation, disregard of usual business ethics or the attempt to circumvent these general requirements, when brought to our attention, will result in refusal of further advertising and might result in disbarment from the NRA in the case of members.

6. Blind Ads Not Acceptable: Box number or blind ads will not be accepted. Give your COMPLETE name and address, to insure prompt delivery of all mail or telegraph replies.

7. How to Count Numerals, Etc.: Groups of figures are counted as one word (example: .30-30, 250-3000, $150.00, $1.50). (Abbreviations consisting of initials or single characters likewise are counted as one word (example: W. H. Smith; H. B., meaning heavy barrel; HP., meaning high-power). Hyphenated words are counted as two words (examples: 20-gauge, pearl-handled, no-slip).

8. Responsibility for Illegible Copy: Type or print advertisements plainly, as we can not be responsible for errors due to illegible writing.

9. Firearms for Sale or Trade Must Be Properly Described: The *condition* of every gun (including essential parts) advertised for sale or trade, *must* be specified according to *NRA standards*, as follows: PERFECT—meaning factory condition; EXCELLENT—meaning new condition, implying negligible amount of use; VERY GOOD—meaning practically new condition; implying little use, with no appreciable bore wear and only minor surface scratches or wear; GOOD—meaning moderate use with some finish worn off, only moderate bore wear, with no pits and nothing worse than a little roughness in the bore; FAIR—meaning no parts missing necessary to use of gun, reasonable wear inside and out, nothing worse than minor pits in steel or stock, gun sufficiently accurate for hunting. POOR—meaning marred appearance and pitted or badly worn bore.

10. Definite Prices Must Be Stated: A specific price must be stated on all items offered in FOR SALE and SELL or TRADE ads—except that the phrase "write for catalog" or "write for price list" may be used when listing merchandise in quantities.

11. Non-Specific Phrases Barred: Phrases such as "highest" or "top prices paid," as well as any other so-called "auction-type" phrases are not acceptable. The terms "fair price paid" or "state price wanted" may be used.

12. Requesting Privilege of Examination: We *insist* that purchasers desirous of examining merchandise before acceptance request shipment by express C. O. D. with examination privilege. This procedure permits the purchaser to inspect the merchandise *in local express office* and authorizes the express company to return unsatisfactory merchandise at shipper's expense.

13. "Outlawed" Firearms Cannot Be Sold: Federal statutes forbid the sale or trade of all machine or submachine guns; sawed-off rifles and shotguns with barrels of less than 18" and Mauser and Luger auto pistols *with holster stocks*—except by a Federally licensed dealer who has paid the special tax required by Section 3260, Internal Revenue Code.

FOR SALE

LARGE COLLECTION OF AMERICAN AND European antique arms. Send 25 cents in coin for our 14th edition catalog featuring the Brown collection of Kentucky rifles. We buy whole collections or single pieces. Fair prices paid. Kimball Arms Company, Woburn, Mass. tf

1—NATIONAL MATCH COLT .45 AUTO, WITH Pachmayr accuracy job and trigger shoe, fleece lined case, regular and stag handles, $100.00, in very good to excellent condition. A target shooters deluxe gun. Can reload 200 and 230 grain lead bullets for same, at $7.50 per hundred, up to 200 rounds. M. H. Hollis, 38 Westmoreland Ave., Longmeadow 6, Mass.

ILLUSTRATED 174 PAGE CATALOG OF ANtique firearms and edged weapons 50¢. Robert Abels, R-860 Lexington Ave., New York 21, N. Y. 1-48

BUILD YOURSELF A CAPLOCK "SPORTER". You need only an old 45-70 Springfield, one of our new muzzle-loading barrels, and a few accessories. Descriptive details and list on request. (Stamp, please). James Serven, Santa Ana, California. tf

WE BUY, SELL, TRADE SHOTGUNS, RIFLES, revolvers, ammunition, outboard motors. Scaramuzzo, 601 South Halsted, Chicago 7. tf

RIFLEMAN, 1932 TO 1946 COMPLETE, GOOD, $17.50. A. L: Humes, What Cheer, Iowa.

WINCHESTER M70, 22-3000, 2R, G&H, EXCELlent, Monte Carlo cheekpad; Weaver K4 Lee Dot, G&H detachable mount, Redfield MT peep sight, accessories new, $175.00. Leica G.F2 Summar 1/1000, case, excellent, $225.00. Leica IIIC-F2 Summar, case, excellent, $325.00. Cased chrom Vidom; Leica synchronized flash; sunshade kodachrome A filter; DeMornay Budd Reflex finder, new, $75.00 only as unit with either camera. John Fritchey, 713 Second, Harrisburg, Penna.

WINCHESTER RIFLES, LEVER ACTION, model 65, repeating rifles, caliber 25-20, 22" barrel, brand new, $63.95. Remington, bolt action, target rifles, model 513TR, .22 caliber, brand new, $53.50. Remington model 81A Woodmaster, 35 caliber auto loading rifles, brand new, $120.00. Used carbines—Winchester model 95, caliber 30-06, good condition, special $49.50. H&R Reising, .22 caliber model 65 auto loading rifle, brand new, $57.50. Japanese military rifles .31 caliber as issued, excellent condition, $20.00 each. German 8mm. military rifles, world war #2 as issued model 98, excellent condition, $39.50. Remington, model 11A Sportsman, 12 and 16 gauge, brand new, $94.00. Savage, model 720, 12 gauge auto loading shotguns, brand new, $89.50. Forward money order. No C.O.D. shipments. Public Sport Shops, Dept. R75, 13 So. 16th Street, Philadelphia, Penna.

U. S. MILITARY FIREARMS, 1776-1946. BASIC book for collectors, illustrated by 88 full page plates, price $6.00. James Hicks, 428 Rich, Mount Vernon, N. Y. 12-47

MUZZLE GUN SUPPLIES: NIPPLES FOR rifles, shotguns, pistols and muskets 25¢ each, 5 for $1.00. Stainless steel nipples ¼-28, small opening at top, 3 for $1.00; send old nipple that is to be duplicated. Flints for pistols and rifles, $1.00 per dozen. Percussion caps, 1000 for $3.40 FOB. Black powder, 6¼ lb. can $4.00; 25# can $12.50 FOB freight only. Several fine match rifles, $60.00 to $175.00; flintlock rifles $75.00 to $100.00. Squirrel rifles in .32 to .38 caliber $35.00 to $75.00. Hickory ramrods, .38, .40, .42, $1.00; .48 caliber $1.25. Plastic adjustable black powder measure, funnel $3.25; every shooter of frontier guns needs one of these. Nipple wrenches for rifle, pistol or musket 75¢. Round ball moulds, wood handles, sprue cutters at $5.50 up to .50 caliber; $6.00 for larger sizes. Main spring vise 75¢. New .375 caliber slow pitch barrels, with drum and nipple $17.00. Drum, nipple and clean-out screw combination 75¢. Send old outfit to be duplicated. 17A sights $3.00 57E for M75 Winchester $6.00; Redfield 70M for Mausers $8.50; Redfield 65 front $3.50. Unused percussion lock hammers, 1⅝" reach $2.00; 2⅛" $1.75. Will furnish target and loading data with match rifles. Farris & Son, Portsmouth, Ohio. tf

USE THE NEW GAS PROOF GUN WAD FOR mild recoil, close even pattern, unusually long range, $4.00 per M. Packed in 1000 lots, 500-⅜", 250-⅛C, 250 thin C, send remittance. E. G. Snyder, Rt. #2, Reading, Penna. tf

SPORTS INVENTIONS: FISHING, HUNTING or other sports inventions, patented or unpatented, can now be safely pre-tested for commercial value. Complete information, free. Institute of American Inventors, Dept. 131, 1926 Eye Street, N.W., Washington 6, D. C. tf

CONVERT YOUR LUGER TO A .22 AUTOMATIC. photographs, blueprints, literature, $2.00. Original parts used, appearance unchanged. Ian Murray, 3443 West 3rd Ave., Vancouver, British Columbia. 4-47

CASWELL TARGET CARRIERS GIVE THE shooter every possible point because they hold the target steady and require no exertion to operate. Fully equipped with speedy ball-bearing pulley wheels and target holders for every type of indoor paper rifle or pistol targets. Caswell Target Carriers, Anoka, Minnesota. tf

REVOLVERS, MINERALS, STAMPS, COINS, glass, Indian relics, catalog 5¢. Cowboy Lemley, Las Cruces, New Mexico. tf

SHOTGUNS, RIFLES, REVOLVERS, ACCESsories, gun traders monthly bulletin. Free ad monthly to subscribers. Sample copy 10¢. Shotgun News, Columbus, Nebraska. 4-47

550 ANTIQUE GUNS FOR SALE. CATALOG 25¢. Gil Hebard Enterprises, Box 487F, Knoxville, Ill. 5-47

.220 SWIFT, WINCHESTER MODEL 70 SUPER grade, fancy grain stock, perfect, 10 box factory loads, Litschert model A, target scope mounted, 1½" obj. 10 power excellent, $300.00. Harold Hemmelgarn, Rt. #1, Box 105, Maria Stein, Ohio. 4-47

WINCHESTER LEVER 12, BARREL SLIGHTLY pitted, otherwise in good serviceable condition $55.00. Colt double 12 hammerless, Damascus barrels, fine in and out, $55.00, collectors items. Colt lever .44 caliber, bore dark, outside good, does not eject the empties well, $30.00. Colt pump .32, does not eject the empties well, $18.00. Winchester 1873 model 22, poor, $10.00. Winchester 1873 model 22, fair, $15.00. Winchester 1873 model 44, fair, $15.00. Colt pump .22, needs firing pin, forend has been repaired, $12.00. Charles E. Davis, Ellendale, No. Dak.

SPERM OIL SHIPPED ANYWHERE IN U. S. postpaid $1.00 pint, $5.00 gallon. Pend Oreille Sport Shop, Box 168, Sandpoint, Idaho.

BINOCULARS—CARL ZEISS, JAENA DELACTIS I.F. 8x40 perfect. 1,303,000, case, straps, $202.00. Sleeping bags, two perfect, can be zipped as one, tent top, pocket for air mattress, water proofed, $50.00. C. W. McDonnell, 631 South Westlake, Los Angeles 5, California.

.45-70-500 SMOKELESS CARTRIDGES, $1.90 PER box, $9.00 per 100. Headless shell extractor for the .45 caliber Springfield rifle and carbine, 75¢ each. Rubber slipon recoil pads 90¢ each. Dept. R, Bolin's Gun Shop, 9 Grand St., South Amboy, N. J. tf

REGISTERED RELIC WORLD WAR I MACHINE guns, list by request. John Hintlian, 273 Maple Hill Avenue, Newington, Connecticut.

FIGURES

Not pin-ups—
but mighty interesting!

The March issue carried **856** separate classified ads, totaling nearly **500** inches, or **17** pages.

There were also **255** display ads—or a combined total of **1111** ads, both classified and display.

Pretty convincing evidence of the profitable results obtainable thru exposing your wares, regularly, to the **230,000** "eager beaver" RIFLEMAN subscribers!

Final closing date for both classified and display advertising in the June issue is May 1st.

FOR THE SHOOTER BY A SHOOTER

FREELAND DELUXE OFFSET Tripod, olive or black $9.50
12" Extensions $1, 24" $2

ARGUS SPOTTING SCOPE $74.50

MOSSBERG SPOT-SHOT 22.30

FREELAND DeLuxe Cuff & Hook $3.00
FREELAND Short Sling for Cuff 1.45
FREELAND SUPREME CUFF & SLING 3.75

FREELAND RIFLE GLOVE $3.50

FREELAND RE-COIL SPRING FOR SCOPE .. 3.00

FREELAND FORE-END STOPS .. $2.00-3.50

FREELAND CHAMPION RIFLE STOCKS $45.00

FREELAND SHOOTING MATS THE ZENITH OF ALL MATS

Type "A," full-length underpadding and leg flaps, cocoa elbow rests $17.50

Type "B," cocoa insert, leg flaps $12.50

Limited quantity available for immediate delivery. Price delivered.

B & L Shooting Goggles $16.50
10X Rifle Coats ..... $10.50-$14.00
MITCHELL SHOOTING GOGGLES 11.60
FECKER RIFLE SCOPES $70-98.50
UNERTL TUBE SIGHT 24.00
UNERTL RIFLE SCOPES, up from 58.00

THOMAS TRIGGER FOR YOUR 52 OR 37 ..... $20.40

Cleaning Rods up from $1.50
Carbide Lamps, $2.25; Carbide ..... .40
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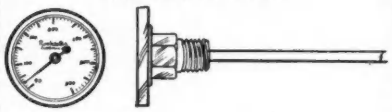

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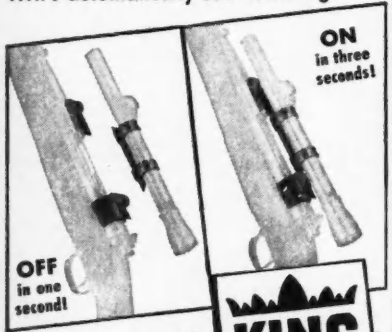

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MILITARY COLLECTOR'S BOOKS: JANE'S Fighting Ships, 1941 good $20.00, 1942 perfect $15.00, 1943 good $10.00. Jane's All World's Aircraft 1937, excellent $20.00, 1939 perfect $30.00. Martial Law, Weiner, 1940 perfect $5.00. .32 S&W first model, 3½" blue, rib, good to excellent, details stamp, or $50.00. C.O.D. Examination privilege. Gov't model .45 1911-A-1 excellent to perfect $50.00, extras. Five AAF Bulletproof vests, size adjustable, good $35.00 each, the lot for $150.00. Trades considered, friendly reply assured. Fed. Permit 7071. J. C. Bogan, Dahlgren, Illinois.

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WINCHESTER MODEL 70, .220 SWIFT STANDard less sights, perfect, $115.00. With Lyman 48WJS, new, $125.00. With Litschert, 15X Targetspot, excellent, $190.00. Ida Mae Hendrix, 803 South 33rd St., Louisville, Kentucky.

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Shown above, Model A tool Retail price **$47.50***

Marksmen and hunters in all parts of the world find that they can save money and increase accuracy of their shooting by handloading their own cartridges. We manufacture in quantity two models of the UNIVERSAL Reloading Tool. These superior tools are built to load any standard center-fire metallic, pistol or rifle cartridge with ease and accuracy. The UNIVERSAL revolving turret head, holding multiple dies, speeds up loading, enables you to load more cartridges per hour. The discriminating shooter will find that in strength, simplicity and precision there is no better equipment on the market.

Both of the UNIVERSAL tool models, A and B are identical in all parts except for difference in the turret heads. Model A, illustrated at left, holds 3 dies in its indexed rotating head, sufficient to reload any single caliber cartridge. Model B, illustrated at right, answers the need for the advanced shooter who owns guns of several calibers and wishes to keep his equipment set up and handy for immediate use. The indexed rotating head holds 12 dies, sufficient to reload 4 or more sizes of cartridges. At most, all that is necessary to change on the tool when switching from reloading of one caliber to another might be the primer rod, the shell holder, and the setting on the powder measure. All other dies remain permanently adjusted in the rotating, indexed turret head. All our products are fully guaranteed.

At left, Model B tool. Retail price **$55.00***

Patent U.S.A.

Immediate delivery can be made on Model A and Model B tools complete with UNIVERSAL dies for the following calibers:

Rifle Dies: .22 Hornet, .22K Hornet, .218 Bee, R-2 Lovell, .219 Zipper, .22 Savage H.P., .22/.250 Varminter, .220 Swift, .25/.20, .256 (Jap Arisku), .250 Savage, .25 Remington, .25 Krag, .257 Roberts, 6.5mm. (Mannlicher), .270 Winchester, 7mm. (Mauser), .280 Ross, .30/.30 Winchester, .30 M1 carbine, .30 Newton, .30 Remington, .300 Savage, .300 Magnum, .30/.40 Krag, .30/.06, .303 (British), .32/.20, .32/.40, 8mm. (Mauser), .348 Winchester, .35 Remington, .35 Newton, .351 Winchester, .375 Magnum, .38/.55, .401 Winchester, .405 Winchester, .44/.40, .45/.70, .45/.90.

Pistol Dies: .32 S. & W. long, .38 S. & W., .38 S. & W. special, .38 ACP (Super), 7.63 Mauser, 7.65 Luger, 9mm. Luger, .38/.40, .44 S. & W. special, .45 ACP, .45 Auto Rim, .45 Colt long. Above dies $12.50 per set (resizing die and bullet seating die). Powder measure adaptor die $2.50 each additional.

UNIVERSAL dies are interchangeable with the fine Pacific dies and can be used either in UNIVERSAL or Pacific tools.

*Prices shown on above tools include one complete set of dies for any one caliber (not including powder measure adaptor die, which is $2.50 additional). Discount to Dealers.

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Fits UNIVERSAL or PACIFIC tool

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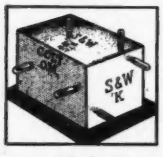

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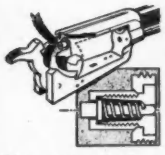

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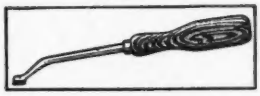

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.22-250 MAUSER, BISHOP STOCK, JAEGER q.d. mount Alaskan, components, unfired, $170.00. 23D Hornet Jaeger q.d. mount K4, new, $150.00. 2R Krag, flush Bishop stock, new, $85.00. Remington 81, new, $125.00. 8mm. 33 Winchester ammunition. I. Lenz, Olivia, Minnesota.

BEAUTIFUL ENGRAVED FRENCH 16, 28" BARrells F&M case hardened frame, straight grip stock nicely checkered, leather sling rolls automatically out of sight into the stock, wood very slightly marred, otherwise outside, very good or better, inside good, $150.00. Will ship COD inspection allowed for 5% deposit. J. D. Phillips, Box 480, Selma, Alabama.

25-35 HI-WALL SCHUETZEN, DST, SUHL stainless 1¼" barrel, Mann. taper-wedge micrometer mounts, fancy loop lever, beautiful, accurate, excellent, dies, $145.00. Beamer 8x30, C. F. binoculars, clear, brilliant, case, $60.00. .45 S&W Military, v.g., $42.50. Belt Sander 4", new, $20.00. Drill press ½", new, $40.00. Miscell. primers, components, tools, no list, state wants. Want 37 Ithaca, .22 Target pistol rifle, Varmint gun. Weldon, 14 Avenue 50, Venice, California.

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I'm gonna have some fun;
Trade this dad blame basket
To Bedford for a gun!

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$24.95 Prepaid

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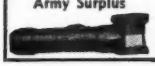

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New Navy rubberized waterproof & windproof parka with hood. Ideal for all sportsmen. Wt. 2 lbs., pp. **$2.95**
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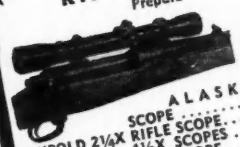
RIFLE SCOPES Prepaid — FOR FALL HUNTING



LEUPOLD 2½X SCOPE	$60.00
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Blued finish, 4", 5", 6" Barrels, prepaid **$56.50**
Shoulder Holsters $4.95
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Slips over butt of rifle or shotgun stock. Complete with rubber insert that absorbs recoil. Both for ..... Prepaid **69c**

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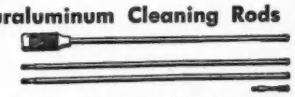

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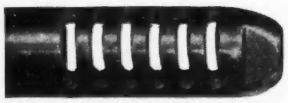

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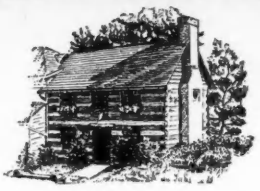

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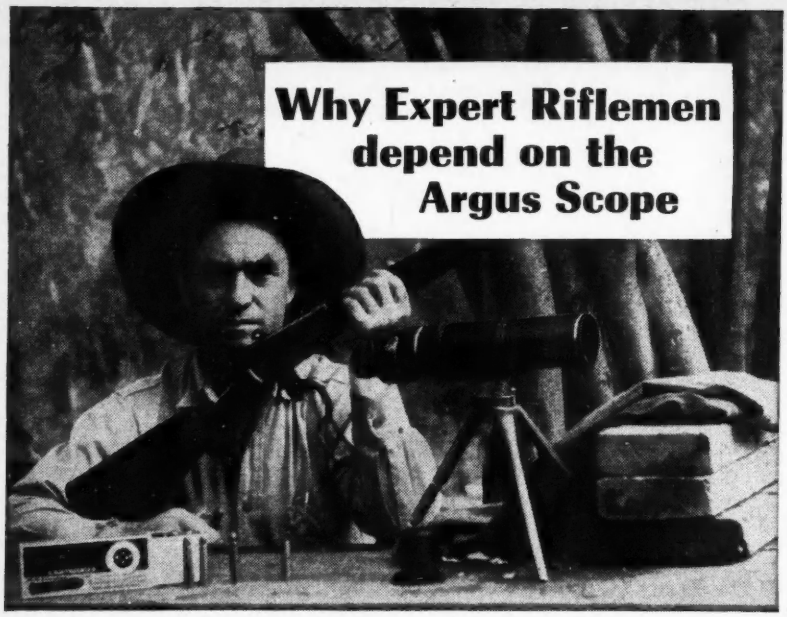

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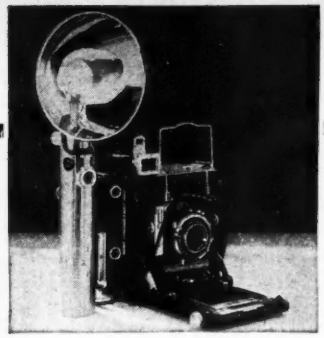

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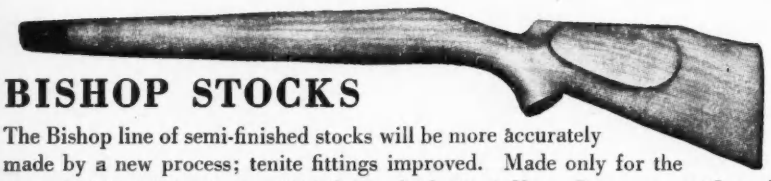

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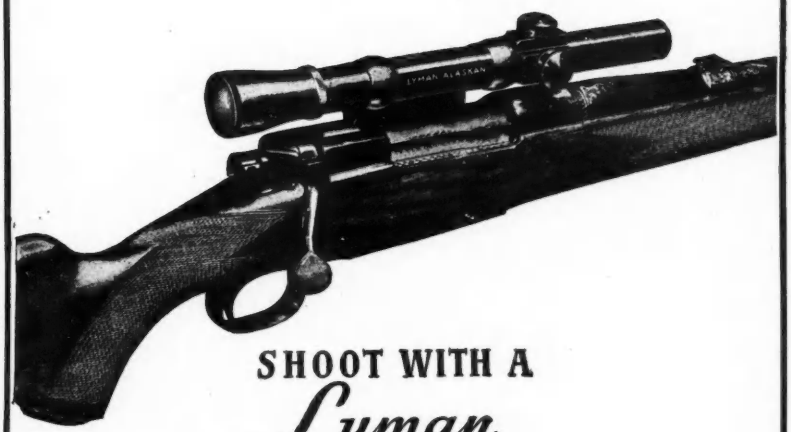

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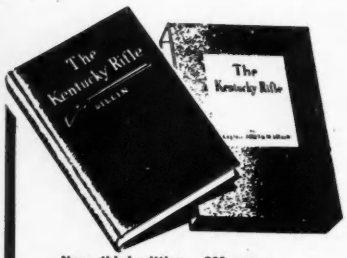

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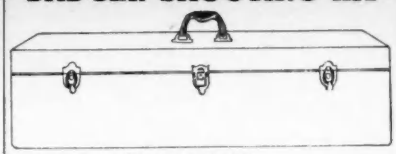

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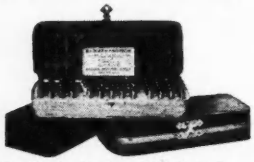

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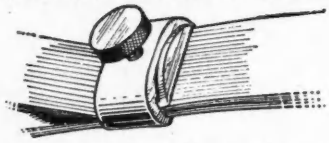

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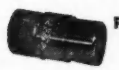

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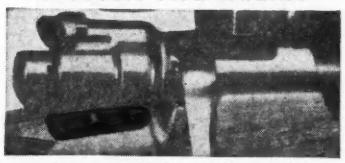

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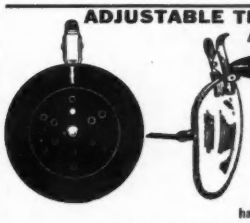

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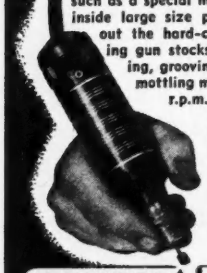

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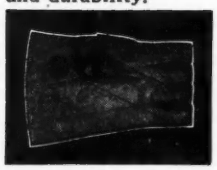

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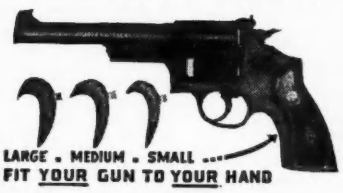

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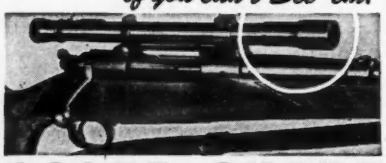

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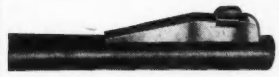

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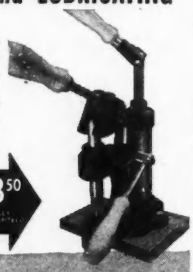

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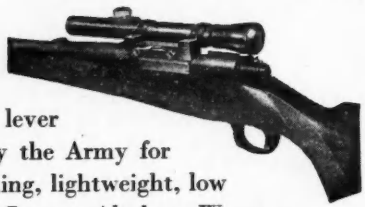

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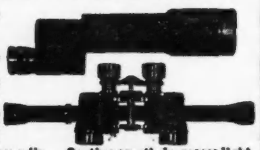

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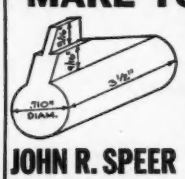

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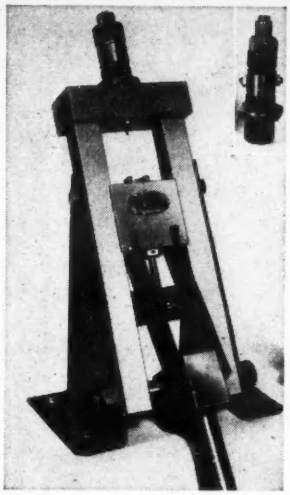

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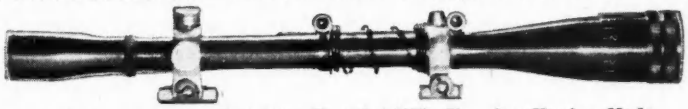

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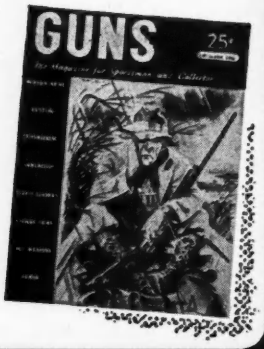

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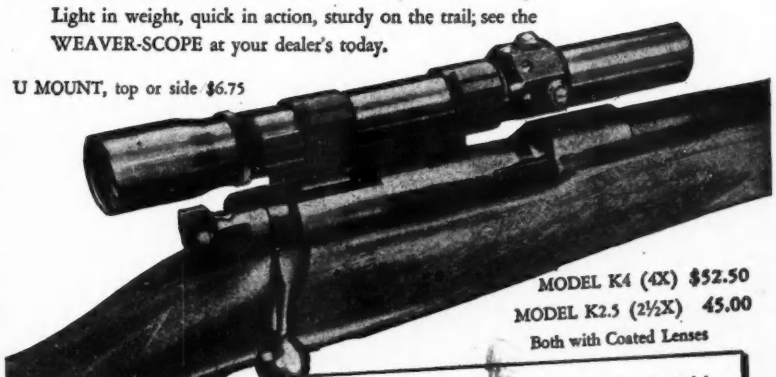

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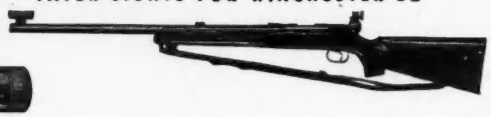

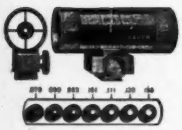

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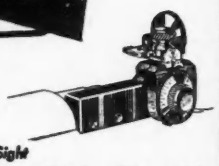

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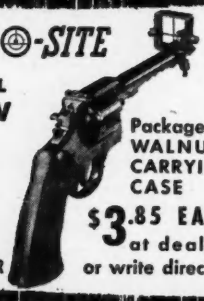

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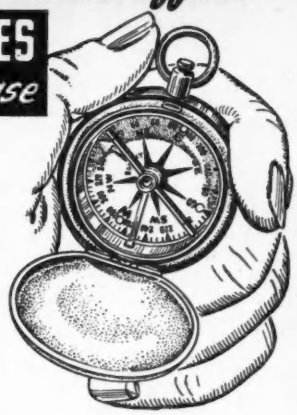

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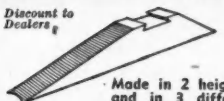

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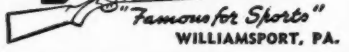

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GUN STOCKS ROUGH SHAPED AND INLETTED smoothly sanded ready for fitting. Jos. J. Szczepanik, Englishtown, N. J.

THAT TRADER FROM MASSACHUSETTS IS still buying guns and has good buys in pistols such as S.A. Colts, 38 and 45. 25 autos and 32 autos. Let's hear from you. Hicks' Sports Shop, Wakefield, Mass.

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BARREL SERVICE—FOR GUN SHOPS AND dealers, Pfeifer barrels installed on your actions rough turned to your dimensions, also barrel polished and blued if desired, any caliber I chamber for. Write for prices, and list of chambers. No action work, please. Stamp appreciated. C. G. Moffat, 6540 Riverton Ave., North Hollywood, California.

8MM. SOFT POINT AMMUNITION IN STOCK. Accepting orders for special built Varmint rifles for spring delivery. Stamp for list. Triplett's Custom Loads, Box 6, Cimarron, New Mexico.

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CUSTOM GUNSMITHS—MILITARY RIFLES REmodeled, custom rifles for sale, scopes, sights, reloading tools, bullets, shooters' supplies. We have been serving local trade several years, expanding our shop. Satisfaction guaranteed. Write for information and prices. Inquiries promptly answered. Hitchcock's Trading Post, Box 71, Thorndale, Penna.

PRECISION RELOADS—HORNET, K HORNET only 10 years experience, write before sending cases. N.R.A. member. Mandells Custom Reloads. Willow River, Minnesota.

BOOK REVIEWS

TWENTY-TWO CALIBER VARMINT RIFLES, By C. S. Landis.

There is no greater problem for most varmint hunters than that of selecting the right cartridge. Except for the older shooters, who have followed the progress of varmint cartridge improvements, the questions to be asked before selecting a new rifle or changing to another are: Which is the most accurate? Which is the most efficient? Which will give the longest barrel life? What is the load? The greatest source of published information on current cartridges has long been THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN.

Now we have C. S. Landis' book, which is the first of its kind. The author deals entirely with .22 caliber varmint rifles. He gives the history and case measurements of practically all the well-known .22 caliber wildcats. This book is useful to the would-be wildcat experimenter because of authentic information direct from experimenters of long standing: Donaldson, Niedner, Lovell, Gebby, Ackley, Kilbourn, Lindahl, Marciante, Samuel Clark, Jr., G. B. Crandall, C. C. Johnson, Pfeifer, Risley, and many others. The vast number of .22 cartridges to choose from, confuse the beginner when he comes to make a selection. There is, however, adequate information in the book (including case measurements) on no fewer than 58 different .22 cartridges, so the reader will have some comparisons which will help in making his selection.

Other useful materials for the uninitiated experimenter are chapters on selection of an action, tests of modern actions, barrel making, throating and chambers, bullets, and powder.

One of the debatable comments by the author is "hydraulic action"—the effect on an animal when struck by a bullet at very high velocity. An unfortunate statement is that "in order to get in a little shooting one should not always ask permission of the property owner." Such suggestions help defeat all that has been done to promote better sportsman-landowner relationship. It is an unpleasant situation to be caught for unauthorized hunting by an irate farmer, and even more embarrassing when the land is posted. That, plus the recommendation of a rifle well suited "for firing out of a car" (unlawful in many states), is unsound material to publish anywhere. It is too bad that many readers will see these unwise suggestions, while studying what is otherwise a valuable textbook for the varmint shooter and cartridge experimenter.—A. H. B.

(Small Arms Technical Publishing Company, Plantersville, South Carolina. 531 pages, illustrated, indexed, $5.00. Available from the NRA Book Service.)

REMINGTON HANDGUNS, by Charles Lee Karr, Jr., and Caroll Robbins Karr.

It has always seemed strange that Colt handguns should have held a leading position among American collectors of arms to the almost complete exclusion of the products of other pioneer U. S. armsmakers. Gradually, however, these "outsiders" are coming into their own. One more evidence is the appearance of a book for collectors devoted solely to handguns bearing the name Remington.

Here is a book which might serve as a model for studies of relatively limited groups of "collectible" firearms. In this case, Remington handguns have been made the subject of a study which is at the same time a narrative history and a catalogue for the gun collector. The introductory chapters cover, first, a general outline of the Remington Arms Company (reprinted on page 33, this issue, under the title *Early Remington History*) and then a more detailed account of Remington's handgun output. From then on for nearly 100 pages, the authors have systematized Remington pistols and revolvers thoroughly: A photograph of each model, characteristics, caliber, marks, location of serial numbers, dates of production and, as an index of scarcity, number manufactured (the latter in many cases from factory records). To wind up their study,

RIFLES FOR LARGE GAME

By ELMER KEITH

Fascinating as a novel. At once a primer, an intermediate, and advanced text on hunting game. Information on sights, rifles, actions, stock design, and cartridges, emphasized by hunting anecdotes and actual personal experiences. 406 pages, over 200 excellent illustrations.

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SINGLE SHOT RIFLES

By JAMES J. GRANT

A much needed book for the admirer and collector of single shot rifles. 385 pages, with some 175 illustrations, and an appendix with much useful data on cartridges used in the single shots.

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CROW SHOOTING

By BERT POPOWSKI

A recognized expert in the art takes you afield with rifle or shotgun. Informative and entertaining. An excellent book for those looking for some off-season wing shooting or live target shooting. 216 pages, illustrated.

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By CAPT. PAUL CURTIS

A reprint of a standard work on fundamentals of the shooting game. Includes such subjects as Game Shooting and Judgment of Range; Fitting the Shotgun; Moose, Sheep and Goat Hunting and many other interesting topics.

If you do not have this excellent book in your library, you will want this reprint.

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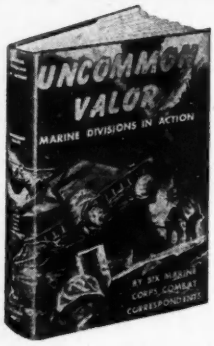

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UNIT HISTORIES

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Narrative accounts of unit actions, liberally illustrated and accompanied by really excellent tactical maps, are now rolling off the presses . . . the pride and esprit of outfits now translated into souvenir books you ex-GIs will surely want.

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this husband-and-wife writing team have included a chapter for the collector, and another for that antithesis of the collector—the infidel who loves to clean up these old-time weapons and shoot them. The book will have little appeal save to the collector; but within this limitation it is a sound, scholarly work and does justice to a group of firearms which has long deserved more notice from the collecting brotherhood. And, incidentally, it is a fine job of bookmaking.

To quote Calvin Goddard, whose introduction heads the book, *Remington Handguns* "represents one more foundation stone in the edifice which is the story of the Handgun in America. It is a sturdy block, carefully hewn and polished, and the two workmen who quarried and laid it have produced a job which is plumb, square and level."—J.S.

(Military Service Publishing Co., Harrisburg, Penn. 134 pages, 49 photographs, $5.00. Available from the NRA Book Service. An NRA Library Book.)

COLT DRAGOON PISTOLS, By James E. Serven and Carl Metzger.

Just a century ago, Samuel Colt, at the insistence of the U. S. Government, resumed at Whitneyville, Conn., the manufacture of his six-shooters. His first venture in the firearms field had failed five years before, with the bankruptcy of his Paterson factory. It was an order for 1,000 revolvers for the Mexican War that brought him back into the business which has made his name immortal, and it was Captain Samuel H. Walker who acted as agent for the Government and persuaded Colt to resume production.

In arms collecting circles we hear a lot about the Colt-Walker; the Whitneyville-Walker; the Colt Dragoon. These are the guns we can learn more about from this excellent monograph by Serven and Metzger.

In 1847, Colt moved his new venture from Whitneyville to Hartford, where his business flourished, and where the great Colt factories are located today, one hundred years later.

This book deals exclusively with the years from 1847 to 1860, the so-called period of the Colt Dragoon. It is in pamphlet form, 8½ x 11, bound in paper, and contains 56 pages profusely illustrated with excellent half tones.

I can find just one fault with this book, and that is that the format is such that it just will not fit on a library bookshelf with other books of like value. This is really too bad for the content is excellent and there is enough reading matter to have made quite a presentable library book if the page size had been made smaller and the book thicker.—J. S. H.

(Carl Metzger, 2305 Canton Street, Dallas, Texas. 56 pages, $3.00. Available from the NRA Book Service.)

UNIT HISTORIES

A great majority of the fighting soldiers and sailors of World War II were damned proud of their outfits, despite the fact that they often went to fantastic lengths to conceal their pride and esprit.

This pride is now being translated into "unit histories" by the scores and by the hundreds; books about what GI Joe's outfit, be it Ground Forces, Air Forces, Navy or Marines, did in World War II. The units concerned range from infantry companies to whole Armies, from destroyers to Naval task forces, from Air Forces to Fighter Groups. The grand total of copies will probably run well over three million.

Most of the Ground Forces books are narrative accounts of unit actions, liberally illustrated and accompanied by really excellent tactical maps. Some Air Force and Navy histories also fall in this category, but many of these unit histories tend to be more in the nature of souvenir books, especially Navy ships' histories.

In any case, we feel that these histories, which are, incidentally, not to be confused with the minutely complete accounts of the War which will later be published by the War Department Historical Division, are important as accounts of the most vivid experiences that millions of Americans will ever encounter.